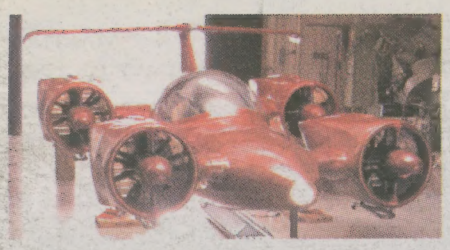

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MARTLET

Thursday, January 19, 2006 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | www.martlet.ca | Volume 58, Issue 18

ONE MAN'S WAGER

Problem Gambling
Pages 12-13

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO | GRAHAM STARK ILLUSTRATION

Business students head to Montreal for MBA playoffs

by Micah Luxen

A team of four UVic business students recently returned from a team-on-team battle in Montreal, using only their wits and experience to navigate a tricky simulated business venture.

The annual John Molson MBA International Case Competition in Montreal tests students' ability to analyze and present business cases in a brief period of time.

From Jan. 3 to 7, UVic students Abubaker Asif, Angela Chapman, Richard Chilibeck and Ming Sun participated in five competitions against other university teams, winning three of their cases and earning a spot among the top 40 per cent of competitors.

"I learned about how you can approach and analyze a business case in such a short period of time," said Sun. The teams had three hours to look over a 10- to 40-page business case and prepare a 25-minute presentation for a panel of seven industry-leading judges. "Before, at school, when you analyze a business case, you have two days, but in the three hours, we did better than in the two days," Sun said.

The team that applied what they had learned in the program to create the best strategy of survival, acquisition, or expansion was awarded the win.

"It's not about the right or the wrong answer, it's about how well you build your analysis and present it to the judges," explained Asif.

The pressure to do well was almost overwhelming for the team.

"On the first day of competition, after the first case, the entire team, except for Bill [Buckwold, the team leader and a UVic professor], started smoking . . . but we quit after we got back," said Sun. "There's so much pressure and you really want to win."

In the end, Concordia, the host university in Montreal, won the competition and the $10,000 prize.

"Nobody suspected foul play," said Sun. "I wouldn't have been surprised if any of the three teams in the finals won the competition. They're all very good. It's really amazing to see universities from Europe and Africa and China come to this event." In fact, the participating teams represented 36 universities from around the world.

"It gives you a chance to pit your skills against some really good people in high pressure situations," said Asif.

"We didn't practice ahead of time as much as some of the teams but we still did well so it's nice to know, with so little practice, you can still do a good job. But to really win, you have to work hard. We had a bit of bad luck and when you really work hard, the effects of bad luck go down."

PROVIDED PHOTO

This UVic team placed 14th out of 36 teams in an international business competition in Montreal this month.

In addition, Asif said the group members' distinct backgrounds gave them an advantage. "Since Ming is from China, we had some really solid implementation strategies about new markets regarding China; that gave us a lot of edge in the games . . . it's not really in the analysis, but in knowing the local market and how to implement your ideas," said Asif.

Before studying for their MBAs at UVic, the team members came from professions as diverse as dentistry and mechanical engineering. The future, however, is where they're looking now.

"I think I'll be a businessman in China, big and successful," said Sun.

"Maybe we'll be each other's competition," Asif responded to his colleague. "I'll just buy [you] out."

"That would be very expensive," said Sun with a laugh.

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Want to start a buzz about the UVic Strategic Plan?

The University of Victoria Students' Society and the University's Planning & Priorities Committee invite you to participate in a Consultation Café on February 2nd, 2006.

President David Turpin will open the café by giving you an overview of the UVic Strategic Plan, *A Vision for the Future,* which is being reviewed by stakeholders this spring as part of a process to renew the plan. We'd like to hear your thoughts on the following questions regarding the future of our university:

1. How can UVic enhance the quality of undergraduate education?
2. How can the student experience at UVic be strengthened?
3. What does UVic offer that is unique and special?
4. What should UVic do to fulfil its goal of being a diverse and welcoming learning community?

This is a great opportunity to listen to your peers and participate in a process vital to UVic.

Who should attend?
Any undergraduate student who would like to participate in a discussion about UVic's strategic plan.

Lively roundtable discussions will be co-hosted by members of the UVSS and the Planning & Priorities committee.

Why?
Your perspective contributes to informed and relevant planning at UVic. It will also influence the type of programs, services and support available to students in the future.

When?
February 2, 2006, 1:00–2:30 PM
Cadboro Commons, McKenzie/Sinclair Room

Seating is limited, so please arrive early.
Refreshments will be served.

Can't make the café? Give us your feedback via email at ppreview@uvic.ca. For further information, please visit the Strategic Review website at uvic.ca/strategicreview or phone the Office of the University Secretary at 721-8102.

UVSS
University of Victoria

Petch fountain prank could cost $1,000

by Ford Walker

Pranksters dumped soap into Petch Fountain the night of Jan. 12 and cleanup could total as much as $1,000, according to UVic Facilities Management.

The fountain was filled with 30,000 gallons (nearly 114,000 litres) of water when the pranksters struck, and the contamination turned it into the equivalent of 830 bathtubs full of water and soap.

"Normally the fountain is drained by gravity to the storm water system," said Grounds Manager Tony James of UVic Facilities Management. "Once, however, pollutants of any sort are added, this water cannot be put into the storm [drain] but has to go to the sanitary system."

Soap has disastrous effects in the natural environment.

"If the soapy water had spilled over into the storm system, it would have traveled downstream into Bowker Creek, and eventually into the ocean," said Sustainability Coordinator Sarah Webb.

"Like other types of pollution, soap can affect multiple characteristics in water— for example, pH levels or biological oxygen demand. This would have likely had impacts on fish, plant life, and invertebrates."

Unlike a fountain that drains into a sanitary cleaning system, Petch Fountain needs to be connected to a draining tank to prevent any contamination from entering the storm water system.

"To prevent wildlife harm and follow regulations, we cannot reduce the suds with an anti-foaming agent," explained James, because such agents are just as bad as soap if they enter the surrounding water table. "This means that the soap residue has to be constantly washed down until none remains and each time pumped to the sanitary [system]."

The cleanup will be costly, not only in work hours but in expenses paid by Facilities Management. Each fill of the fountain costs $100, and then there are further fees for increasing the output into the sanitation system.

"I estimate cost implications for something like this to be in the $600 to $1,000 range, depending on the amount of work needed," James said.

KATE WEBB PHOTO

Petch fountain was a soapy mess the morning of Jan. 13.

"Sudding" is a common prank at UVic, and this is not the first time this school year that it has occurred.

"It usually happens two or three times a year, often as an end of year or beginning of semester prank," said Webb.

UVic prof looks for present-day prophets

by Kate Webb

Move over Moses, Mohammed and Buddha—there may be new prophets in our midst.

In a recent public lecture by Dr. Michael Hadley, professor emeritus and associate fellow of UVic's Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, the question was raised whether religious fundamentalists should be so quick to assume all the world's true prophets have come and gone.

He began his Jan. 11 talk by pointing out that what are known as the Torah and Old Testament in the Judeo-Christian tradition were closed by the 1st century C.E. "It's a done deal," he said. "No new prophets or holy voices can get in. . . Evangelical Christians want to herd us back to the closed prophetic history."

Hadley withheld his personal beliefs about whether communication with a divine being is a necessary prerequisite for prophetic status, and instead offered a contemporary take on what makes a prophet. "We neglect them at our peril. That, I, would say, is the litmus test for a prophetic message," he said.

Hadley's first example of a modern-day prophet is Martin Luther King Jr., the most famous leader of the American Civil Rights Movement, but the list did not stop there. He argued that prophets can be found in any period of history, and can be identified by the way they "speak truth to power," graphically and passionately, and with authority and authenticity.

"Such prophetic voices continue to call us to account," Hadley said. "Environmentalists calling us to a new and responsible vision of our world; feminists calling us to a new kind of sensitivity and equity; social reformers calling us to confront the grinding poverty and unequal distribution of wealth; theologians calling out to churches frozen in time to change their ways—or die on the vine; peacemakers calling the powder-monkeys to a revaluation of violence-prone and violence-propogating military power; a compassionate breed of activists urging us to heal the harms caused by crime by transforming vengeful cultures into caring communities."

Hadley also entertained the possibility that at least some modern visionaries deserve the title "prophet" despite a lack of religious or spiritual affiliation, calling attention to the work of the current UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, Stephen Lewis.

Lewis, a Canadian politician and diplomat widely known for his work in bringing worldwide attention to the AIDS crisis and for his skills as a charismatic and persuasive orator, has been quoted as saying he is "not a person given to intense spirituality."

If it is the case that his and others' messages are prophetic, Hadley said, it may be time to open up religious texts to some new canonizations.

"Most, if not all, of these people [potential modern prophets] would not consider themselves prophets; many of them, perhaps, would not even regard themselves as particularly religious or spiritual persons," he said.

"But the authenticity of their messages, the incisiveness of their thought, the resonance of their rhetoric, and the persuasiveness of their profession of values suggest that they stand firmly in the prophetic tradition nonetheless."

Hadley's lecture was part of an ongoing Public Lecture Series put on by the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, sponsored in part by the Vandekerkhove Lectureship Benefaction.

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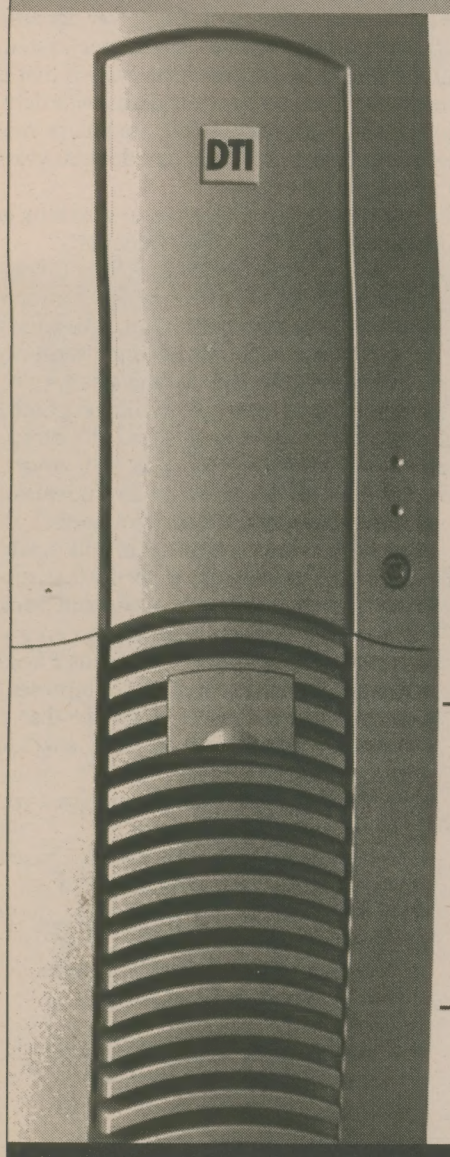

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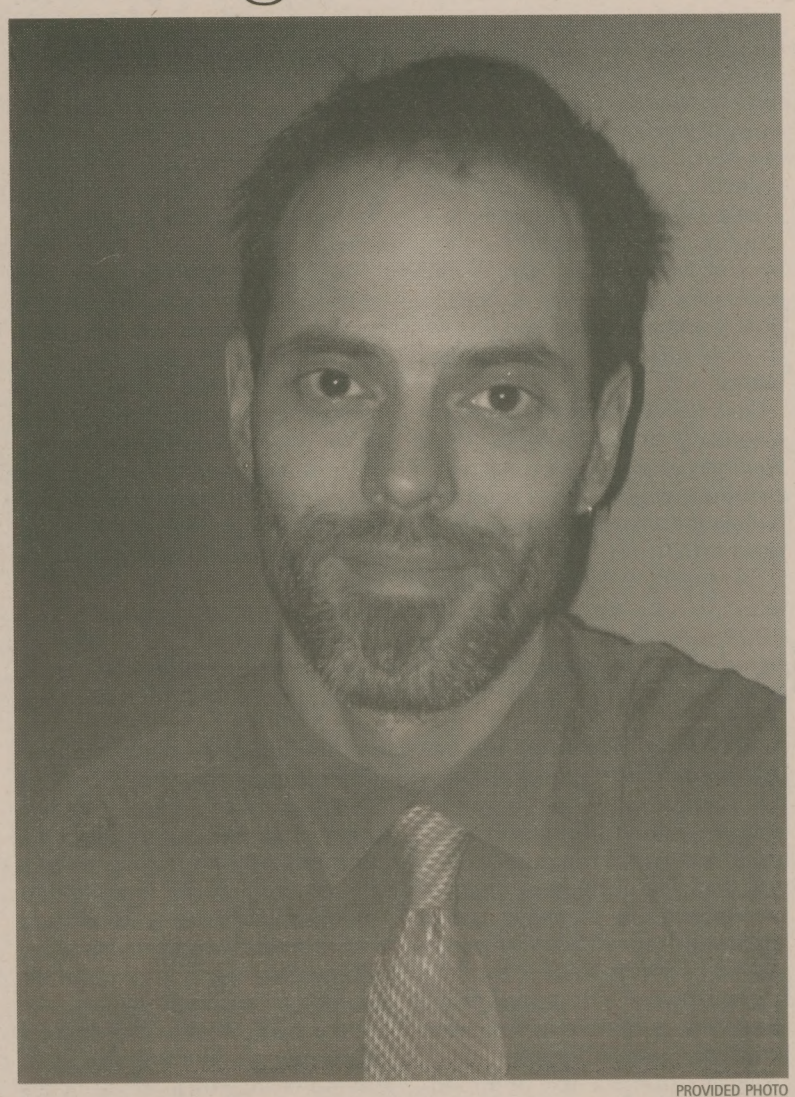

PROVIDED PHOTO

Cab driver Saul Andersen is Victoria's only independent candidate running for federal office.

by Anna Kemp

Saul Andersen, a local cab driver running as an independent candidate for Victoria, is a newcomer to Victoria's political scene. The *Martlet's* Anna Kemp sat down with him Jan. 9 to ask him about his campaign and beliefs. Below is a partial transcript of that interview.

Martlet: Tell me a bit about yourself, Saul. What is your political background?

Saul Andersen: My experience of politics comes from 10 years of cab driving. Cab driving is politics on its purest level—dealing with people, talking with them, hearing their stories and sharing their experiences on so many levels. I know I have a constituency out there. I have talked to you all. I've had probably 50,000 cab fares in the last 10 years.

M: Why did you decide to run for federal politics as opposed to municipal level politics?

SA: As an MP in Ottawa, you have a certain degree of credibility that allows you to realistically communicate with some of the people that are going to help you advance an ecologically and economically sustainable agenda. That isn't happening anywhere else. I want to communicate with important people around the world, like Noam Chomsky, Al Gore, Hugo Chavez, and Evo Morales, the new Bolivian president.

M: Why are you running as an independent?

SA: I want to distance myself from the traditional parties. It seems like the status quo isn't working for the majority of Canadians. And if you listen to the leadership debate tonight, what they're saying is very uninspiring. With all due respect to them, they may have some good ideas, but I think that I have some better ones and there are other people who have some better ones.

M: So you'd better tell us about some of these good ideas. What do you feel are the major issues?

SA: Proportional representation is fundamentally the biggest thing I want to address. As an MP, I would introduce a series of private member's bills in some way or another to advance that cause. Ecological and economic sustainability is a major issue. I think we need to turn to a more craft-based economy, with non-industrial agriculture and restorative practices. We need to detoxify our planet. We have the technology to do a lot of these things . . . . We could revitalize Canadian manufacturing industries if we started growing industrial hemp and took all the technologies we have now and applied them to sustainable energy. Say we put Canadian manufactured solar panels on the roofs of all federal office buildings. If they made those election signs out of hemp plastic you could put one up on my lawn.

M: Can I ask you then, how do you distinguish yourself from the Green Party?

SA: All I really hear from the Green Party is a couple of green taxes here and there, and that they want to enforce Kyoto. I want to address fossil fuels. I want to demand that all federal vehicles are going to be hemp bio-diesel or hydro cars. We should demand from the federal government that we see the dollars we're spending. We want industries that are sustainable and or renewable and we're going to spend our money accordingly. I haven't heard anything particular from the Green Party with these kinds of ideas.

M: If you are elected, what are your goals in the short term and in the long term for Victoria?

SA: In the short term, in Victoria, I'd focus on sewage treatment. And in the long term, I'd focus on what's important to the people of Western Canada, and of Vancouver Island in particular. We have a lot of people here who are like-minded and we offer a unique opportunity to advance the cause from a respectable place. If you're going to change the world, this is a great place to do it from. I think people around the world respect Canadians enough.

M: But what would that look like?

SA: Sorry to get all visionary and misty-eyed on you there. Long-term in Victoria? I want to secure the continued growth and prosperity here. I want to stop clear-cut logging in B.C., of any kind really, especially old growth forest. On long-term objectives I've got to have dialogue with people. I want to address poverty, of course; that's a serious issue that needs to get addressed.

M: What do you think about education?

SA: I think university education should be free. Or, at the very least, I believe that money shouldn't be the obstacle to whether or not you attain. Maybe we need to have more bursaries for lower income people. We need a better system then the student loan system that is racking many Canadians with debt. I know people that are still paying off their student loan debt 20 years later.

M: Do you want to say anything in particular to UVic students?

SA: I graduated from Simon Fraser University 16 years ago. I understand student issues and they don't go away. Are you feeling disenfranchised? Are you feeling disaffected? Well, so was I, 20 years ago, and I still feel disaffected and disenfranchised and I can't take it anymore. So, what I want to say to students of UVic, and of Camosun as well, is that there are enough of you to win this election. Say I got 20,000 student votes. David Anderson took 30,000 to win the riding, so even if 20,000 isn't enough, it sends a serious message that I do represent people, that there is a voice that is not being heard on the Canadian scene.

M: So, do you really think that you could win?

SA: Yes, of course. I think I have a good chance. I think there's a vacuum here in Victoria right now. Those other parties, they're not even speaking our language, let alone speaking for us.

Saul will be hosting an election results after-party at Felicita's Pub on Jan. 23, after 8 p.m. He will be doing some election return commentary and there are rumours of candidate beer specials.

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NDP earns top grade for education platform

by Bryna Hallam

According to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the NDP has the best plan for Canadian students.

The student organization graded the education platforms of the Liberals, Conservatives and NDP.

The NDP earned an A-, the Liberals snagged a B- and the Conservatives initially failed. That grade was changed to a C- after the party dropped its support for income contingent repayment loan schemes.

"The whole point of income contingent repayment is to make students and their families pay even more for post-secondary education through massive tuition fee increases," said George Soule, National Chairperson of the CFS. "Students are relieved to hear that the Conservative Party is now promising to steer clear of these student loan schemes if they form government."

With income contingent loans, the size of loan payments would be based on each individual's level of income after graduation. Those with smaller incomes would have smaller loan payments spread over a longer period of time. As a result, they would pay more in interest.

The Conservative platform also promises a $500 tax credit for textbook purchases, an increase in the tax exemption on scholarships from $3,000 to $10,000, and a reduction of the amount parents are expected to contribute towards their child's postsecondary education for the calculation of student loan eligibility.

The CFS was also critical of the Liberal platform, including their "50-50" plan, which would give students a grant worth 50 per cent of tuition fees, up to $3,000. The grants would be given to students in their first and fourth years of study, regardless of financial need.

Soule called the plan "a good step, but incomplete."

According to the Report Card, up-front non-repayable grants are the most effective form of student financial assistance, as they reduce student debt and improve access to post-secondary education. However, the report also points out that the value of the grants would decrease as tuition increased, since they are capped at $3,000.

"Paul Martin's refusal to follow through on his 2004 election promise to restore funding for post-secondary education through the creation of a 'seven to eight billion dollar' dedicated transfer payment to the provinces is very disappointing," said Soule.

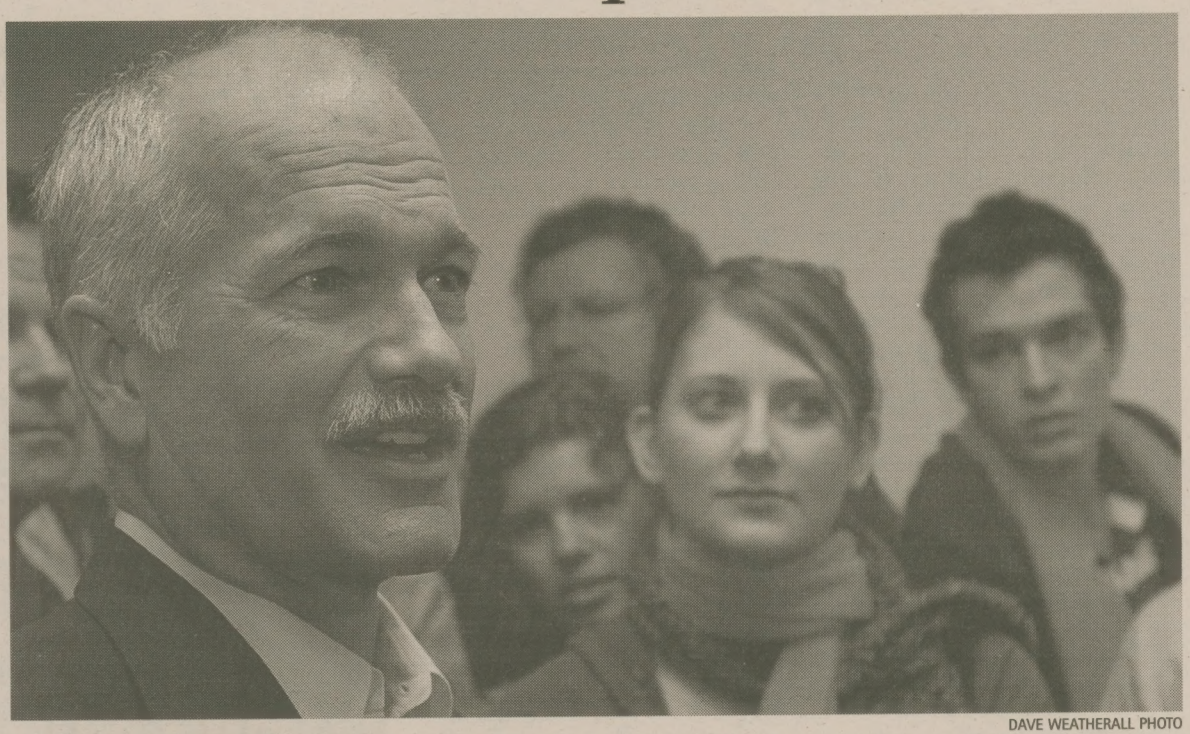
The NDP garnered high marks for its promise to make binding agreements with the provinces to reduce tuition fees in return for increased core funding for post-secondary education. The NDP also call for a national system of needs-based grants.

And those two things, says Soule, are the best ways to improve access to post-secondary education.

But that's not to say that their plan is perfect.

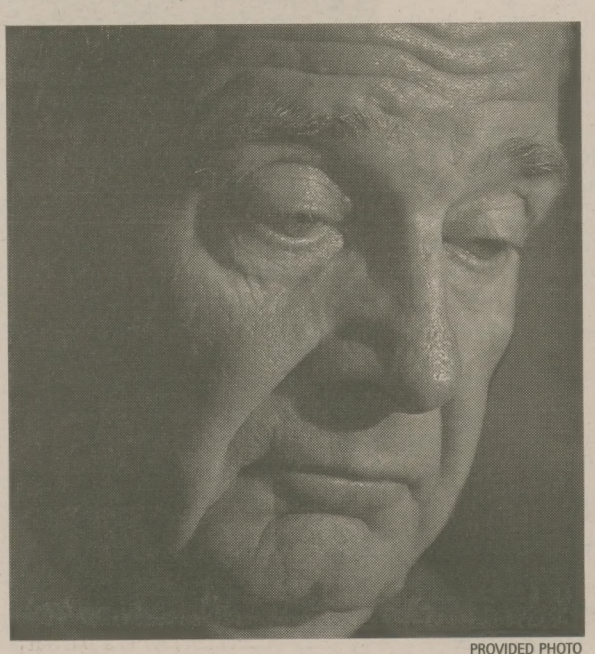
"Despite a positive vision for publicly funded research," reads the Report Card, "the NDP platform lacks detail and costing regarding solutions to research privatization and the infrastructure challenges facing universities and colleges in Canada."

Although the CFS didn't grade their platform, the Green Party also addresses education. They are promising to work with provinces and higher learning institutions to reduce post-secondary tuitions, harmonize government programs such as the Millennium Scholarship Fund to provide a single need-based grant program to reduce student debt, and ensure that public funding plays a major role in research and development initiatives.



DAVE WEATHERALL PHOTO

The Canadian Federation of Students has given Jack Layton and the NDP an A- for their plan to reduce student tuition fees across Canada.



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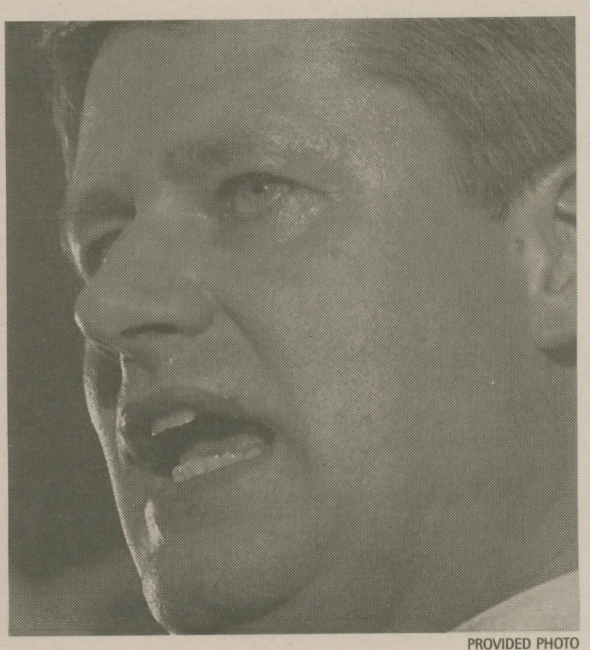
In second place was Prime Minister Paul Martin's Liberal platform, which earned a B-.



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Stephen Harper and the Conservatives came in last, barely scraping by with a C-.

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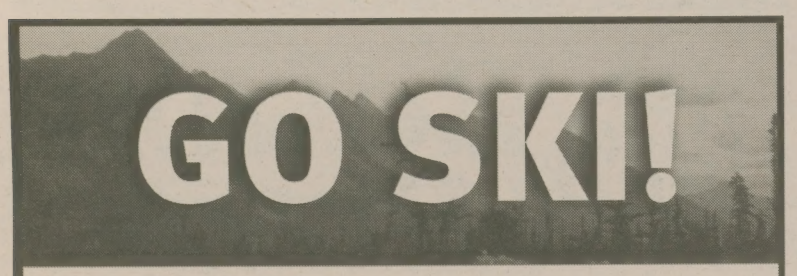

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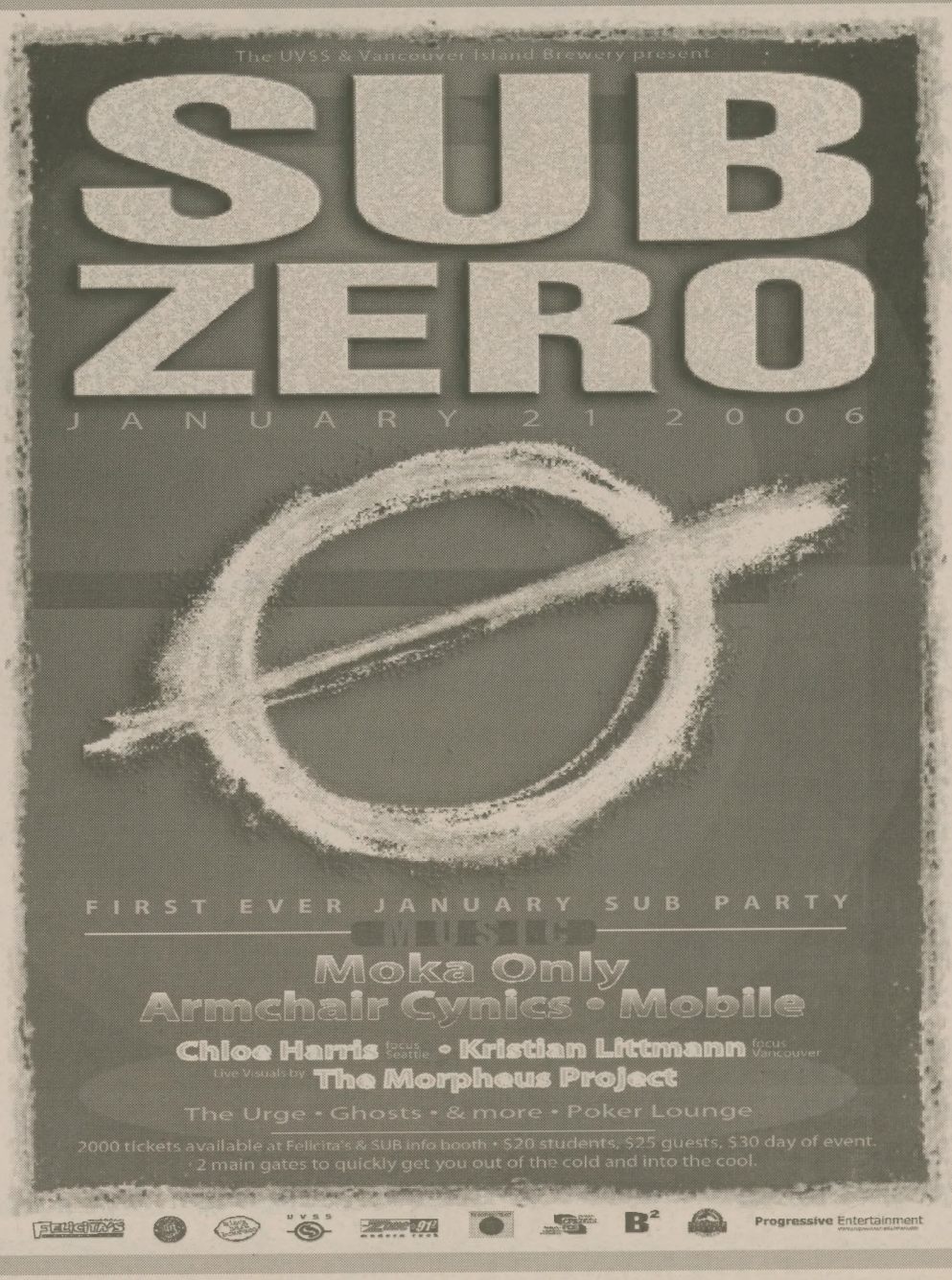
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Why do the little guys always get smoked?

by Kate Webb

When Victoria Marijuana Party candidate Fred Mallach first learned the UVic Undergraduate Politics Society (UPS) was hosting an all-candidates debate on campus, he had a sneaking suspicion his invitation hadn't been lost in the mail.

The architectural technologist and politician says he is used to being written off as a crackpot, given his party's controversial platform to legalize marijuana. But he is angry with the UPS and much of the local media for what he has called a "blackout" on his attempts to present his message to voters, and feels his exclusion from the debate is an assault against democracy.

"I believe anyone on the ballot should be heard," Mallach said the day after the UPS's Jan. 12 debate. "It's not easy to become a federal candidate; the bar is much higher than for municipal elections . . . so anyone who has gone through that process should be heard. [My exclusion from the debate] is discrimination, or dare I say, censorship."

In December, shortly after the election was announced, the UPS made the decision to invite only candidates from the Victoria riding, and only those from the Conservative, Liberal, NDP and Green parties. After initially advertising the forum as an "all-candidates" debate, the UPS later corrected their mistake and changed the name to "candidates debate" to reflect the selective nature of the event.

According to Ashley Cochran, chair of the UPS's "Listen Up: Turn Out" campaign that spurred the debate, her committee's intention was never to exclude voices, but to "give students an experience."

"What we did was to make voices heard—the voices we thought students most wanted to hear," she said. "I would call it selectivity rather than censorship."

Pat Baxter, Mallach's daughter and a UVic master's degree student who is helping her father with his campaign, received a lengthy justification for the UPS's decision from UPS Director of Communications and Public Relations Aidan Brand, Jan. 4.

Brand explained in an e-mail that the choice was based on a number of factors, including the fact that UVic students are spread out between three local ridings.

"By inviting Robin Baird, Ariel Lade, David Mulroney, and Denise Savoie, we felt we were not only providing a debate between candidates in the very tight Victoria electoral race," Brand wrote. "We also felt we were providing representatives from the major political parties, bearing in mind that many, if not most, people vote for parties, and not necessarily ridings. The parties of the four candidates invited are the only four in the other two South Island ridings."

The UPS did, however, provide an opportunity for other candidates to make themselves heard at the debate when confronted about their decision.

Victoria independent candidate Saul Andersen approached the UPS the Monday before the Thursday night debate, and was granted a two-minute slot to present his platform during the open-mic portion. Since Mallach's daughter did not identify herself as representing her father's campaign in her e-mail to Brand, the UPS did not allocate time for Mallach to speak.

"We weren't trying to silence or limit him in any way," asserted Cochran. "He could have tried to contact us."

Cochran added that the UPS's lesson in all this has been that in the future they will likely contact marginal candidates to let them know they have the opportunity to speak during the open-mic session. It's about "finding ways to include more candidates while maintaining the focus and the relevance," she said.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Victoria Marijuana Party candidate Fred Mallach says all candidates should have been invited to a recent debate at UVic.

Dr. Colin MacLeod, a UVic professor of law and philosophy and expert on democratic ethics and theory, says the UPS's decision not to include Mallach in the debate may have been reasonable, but he does not find their official reasons fully persuasive.

"The decision not to include the Marijuana Party in the debate is not, in my view, censorship," he said. "The UPS is not, in any relevant way, preventing Mr. Mallach from expressing his political opinions."

On the other hand, though, MacLeod says decisions about who should be included in political debates should come down to credibility, not popular support.

"One might ask whether the candidate represents a party that has articulated views on a range of relevant issues, or whether the candidate is a serious contender for elected office," he said. "Whether Mr. Mallach and [the] Marijuana [Party] meet the threshold of credibility is, I think, a difficult question. I do not doubt the candidate's sincerity, but it's not clear—judging from the party's website—that the party and it's candidates have a platform beyond the single issue of legalization of marijuana.

Candidates for national office can reasonably be expected to be prepared to field questions on a reasonably wide range of politically important topics."

The controversy that has been stirred up over the UPS debate mirrors a much larger one currently raging between the federal Green Party and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunication Commission (CRTC).

On Jan. 4, the Greens launched a formal complaint against the CRTC over their party's repeated exclusion from televised leaders debates, arguing the omission is "unconstitutional" because it is not consistent with the Canadian Charter principles of free and democratic elections. The party is seeking a review of the broadcasting regulator's policies regarding debates.

The decision about who is included in televised debates is made by the CRTC in conjunction with a consortium of broadcasters, including the CBC, CTV, CanWest Global, CPAC, and Chum. The CRTC is reviewing the Greens' complaint.

The Greens, who received 4.3 per cent of the popular support in the 2004 federal election, say the sole criterion that the CRTC and broadcasters should consider is popular support.

In 2003, the federal government passed Bill C-24, which gave any party that attracted two per cent or more of the national public vote campaign financing of $1.75 per vote. If a party is eligible for campaign financing, its leader should be able to participate in the leaders debates, the Green Party argues.

McLeod is apt to agree, though he is unsure whether there is any legal basis for the party's claim of a Charter violation.

"I think it is clear the Green Party easily meets the relevant credibility threshold," he said. "It is a national party with substantial support and a serious, broad ranging political platform. The decision to exclude the Green Party leader was, from the point of view of democratic values, wrong."

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Ariel LADE

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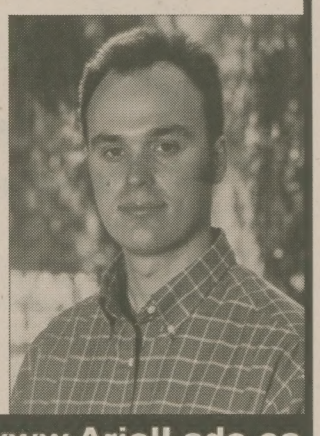

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Laughs and barbs shared left and right at candidates' debate

by David Karp

"My next question is for Robin Baird," said UVic professor Warren Magnusson, the moderator presiding over a Thursday night debate at UVic.

"I can't wait," Baird, a lawyer, shot back sarcastically. "I think my assistant's going to have to give me another pair of drawers." The crowd howled with laughter.

"Your leader has been winning this campaign by pretending he's a Liberal," said Magnusson. The crowd claps and hollers as if they are in a comedy club. "If you're Conservatives, why aren't you running as Conservatives?" asked Magnusson.

"I think I'm going to remain seated," said Baird, in reference to his apparently soiled pants.

"Stand up for Canada!" shouted an audience member, reminding Baird of his party's campaign slogan. Baird reluctantly rose to address a howling audience. His pants appeared to be unblemished.

More than 300 students and community members, including Liberal Senator Larry Campbell, packed UVic's David Lam Auditorium Jan. 12 for a debate between Victoria's four main federal candidates. The debate was hosted by the Undergraduate Politics Society (UPS), and most of the evening's questions were written by students, with the exception of four "nasty" questions created by moderator Magnusson.

Candidates were not allowed to argue the issues with their fellow candidates, as they were only allowed to answer the moderator's questions and no time was given for rebuttals. As a result, the debate was lighthearted and good-humoured.

The night started off with a question about how to balance environmental concerns with the economy. NDP candidate Denise Savoie said polluters should bear more of the costs of pollution, which prompted a shot from Green Party candidate Ariel Lade.

"If you get elected, Denise, I wish you luck cleaning up the NDP," he said, to a mix of cheers and jeers. Baird called the Kyoto Accord implausible, while Liberal candidate David Mulroney took aim at his own party.

"I don't think my government has done enough on implementation of the Kyoto Accord," Mulroney said.

The debate then moved to crime. Baird called for government to create mandatory minimum sentences for gun crimes.

Lade disagreed, saying people "should look at the root causes of crime." Savoie stressed the need for more social programs, increased border control, and severe penalties for importing weapons, while Mulroney questioned his party's focus on gun crime.

"The panic over weapons offenses and gun deaths are not justified by the numbers," the Liberal said.

Magnusson then asked candidates whether Canada should reevaluate its role in Afghanistan.

"I think that mission has been very successful," said Baird.

Lade said the Green Party believes in the role of the United Nations, while Savoie said there should be a debate on Afghanistan. "We need a clear policy, not a secret war," she said.

Mulroney, meanwhile, expressed his support for Canada's role in Afghanistan.

On education, Magnusson asked if candidates would support a $7.8 billion annual transfer payment to provinces for post-secondary education.

Baird said education was the provinces' responsibility, but that Conservatives would give students a tax credit for textbooks.

Savoie boasted that the NDP forced the Liberals to forgo a corporate tax cut in favour of increased education spending. Students "deserve a better deal on education," she said.

Mulroney said his party would pay half of students' tuition during their first and last years of university.

"This is the philosophical difference between the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party," said Mulroney.

Lade disagreed with the Liberal plan. "What are you going to do during your second and third year?" he asked.

Then Magnusson cut into his "nasty" questions. He asked Savoie why her party brought down a moderate Liberal government which would likely be replaced by a right-wing government.

"We are going to work with [the elected government] again to get results for Canadians," assured Savoie.

When it came to Mulroney's question, Magnusson said he felt like he was picking on someone who was down.

"I'm not down!" replied a surprised Mulroney.

"This is probably the worst campaign I've watched in all my years," said Magnusson. "Could you please explain?"

Mulroney said he was "very proud" of the Liberal's financial record. "The fact we've had eight balanced budgets in a row is a fabulous story."

When Baird was asked why the Conservatives weren't campaigning like Conservatives, he replied that Conservatives "believe that moderation is required," stressing that less government is more government.

Magnusson then asked why the Green Party was bothering to run. Lade attacked strategic voting, arguing "voting for a bad choice means you still end up with bad government."

In his closing remarks, Mulroney admitted, "there will always be corruption in government. It's what you do about corruption that matters." Savoie said Canada needs "balanced decision making", while Lade encouraged voters to find their own answers. Baird targeted former Vancouver mayor Campbell, who was sitting in the front row.

"I'm sure your tenure will be illustrious, but I hope it's brief," Baird told the senator as he outlined plans for an elected Senate.

Afterward, independent candidate Saul Andersen was allowed to address the crowd.

"I'm all about creating dialogue and a system of co-operation," said the cab driver turned politician.

The debate concluded with a question period in which candidates clarified their positions on a range of topics including disability issues and sewage treatment.

WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

Victoria Liberal, Conservative, NDP and Green candidates were invited to the UPS's Jan. 12 debate.

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New research to be presented on pot use

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

New studies show teenagers are starting to think of pot use as more normal than smoking tobacco.

by Matthew Gauk

A research colloquium next month at Simon Fraser University's Harbour Centre will debate the side effects of cannabis use on personal health and social well-being.

The event, entitled "Cannabis, Mental Health and Addiction: What is Evidence-Based Policy?" will feature researchers from across the country and abroad, including UVic's own Dr. Tim Stockwell, director of the Centre for Addictions Research of BC (CARBC).

Dr. Joy Johnson of the UBC School of Nursing heads the UBC satellite research unit of CARBC, and will address the issues of tobacco and marijuana.

"Increasingly we're seeing people mixing tobacco and marijuana together in their joints and bongs," said Johnson. "We're really concerned about that co-use and the potential for marijuana use to lead to increased tobacco use, particularly among youth."

Johnson will be drawing from two studies in her presentation.

One that she has already completed is a survey of over 8,000 teenagers in B.C. who answered questions related to tobacco and marijuana use.

One of the key aspects of this study is the "de-normalization" of tobacco use and the "normalization" of marijuana use. According to Johnson's study, smoking tobacco is no longer considered to be the norm and the practices of tobacco companies in particular are seen as outside the norm. The flip side of the coin, though, is that there has been a normalization of marijuana use.

"I think there's a sense, particularly among teenagers, that everybody smokes marijuana; that it's acceptable to do so, and that there are few consequences," said Johnson. "I don't think we've been very clear in our messages to teenagers."

The second study Johnson will speak about is a qualitative work that is currently in progress, with data collection still being done in Port Alberni. She plans to talk about some of the interviews that have been done with teens and about the culture of frequent marijuana use.

"Kids who are smoking marijuana everyday, or four or five times a day in some cases that we know, won't be able to focus and concentrate in school and we know they don't do as well," she said.

People should be concerned for the subgroup of teens that smoke pot regularly in terms of how well they do in school and how well they socialize, says Johnson. It is something, she says, that society will need to grapple with.

"I think, first of all, that it's never good to be blowing smoke into your lungs," said Johnson. "That's an exposure that isn't good for you." The evidence is a bit mixed as to whether or not smoking pot use causes cancer or chronic obstructive lung disease, she adds, because so often marijuana users smoke cigarettes.

She notes a surprising lack of research on marijuana use in B.C. that needs to be set right.

"It's very confusing when we talk about the medical or therapeutic medicines of marijuana," she said. "There are a lot of conflicting messages that make it very difficult for people to get to the bottom of whether their own use might be problematic or what they should be saying to teens."

Johnson lists the conflicting viewpoints of such groups as the police and societies that promote the use of medical marijuana as adding to the confusion.

"The bottom line is that it's very complex," she said. "There are a lot of stakeholders with a lot of different positions."

JANUARY 2006

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	X	THIS MONDAY, VOTE.				

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Voting hours for your polling station are indicated on your voter information card and on the Elections Canada Web site at www.elections.ca by clicking on the Voter Information Service icon.

If you haven't received this card, you are probably not on the voters list. To be able to vote, all you have to do is go to your polling station on election day, January 23, and present an official document that includes your name, address and signature. If you do not have such a document, you will be given the opportunity to swear that you are eligible to vote at the polling station you are in, as long as you are accompanied by a voter registered in the same polling division who can vouch for your identity.

For more information, please contact your local Elections Canada office or visit our Web site at www.elections.ca.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Rock for Malawi

The UVic World University Service of Canada (WUSC) committee is hosting a rock benefit concert called Rock for Malawi Jan. 19 at Steamer's Pub.

The show starts at 9 p.m. and proceeds will go to support WUSC's Bike for Aids project. The project helps pay for bicycles, some outfitted with stretchers, to transport people suffering from HIV/AIDS to hospitals, and for prevention activities, care, support and guidance in Malawi. In Sub-Saharan Africa, over 65 per cent of the population lives in rural areas where bicycles are the primary mode of transportation.

The benefit concert will feature Maurice, The Fastest Race Horse in the World, Shitty Shitty Bum Bums, and Justin Hewit. Admission is $7 in advance or $10 at the door.

Contact WUSC at wuscuvic@hotmail.com for more information.

Bus fare increase proposed

The Victoria Regional Transit Commission announced Jan. 13 it is reviewing a proposal to increase bus fares.

The commission says additional revenue is needed just to maintain the current levels of service, and that with a transit service expansion planned for 2006, a hike in funding is required. Year-to-date figures show an eight per cent increase in ridership, and to compensate the transit system plans to acquire eight new buses, two new handyDART service vans, and facilitate a Community Bus service expansion to Sooke and other Westshore communities.

The Commission is considering raising the additional funds from a split between fares and local property taxes.

The price of an adult monthly pass would increase by $5 per month. The property tax increase would be in the range of $7 to $10 per year for the average assessed residential property. The proposal will not affect cash, ticket or day pass fares.

A public Fare Hearing was held Jan. 17 to give residents a chance to comment on the proposal.

For more information, visit www.bctransit.com/regions/vic/

Sex party sues Canada Post

The Sex party is suing Canada Post for refusing to deliver the party's political leaflets.

Although the party has no candidates running in the upcoming Jan. 23 election, party head John Ince is accusing postal officials of censorship, and calls his party's pamphlets tasteful and informative.

He says Canada Post refuses to handle any ad with a sexual content.

The Sex party was formed last year and ran three candidates in the B.C. provincial election. It is suing Canada Post in federal court, alleging the post office is interfering with political expression and violating the Charter of Rights.

The party's platform is to develop a sex-positive culture in Canada, and it is currently in the process of registering as a party at the federal level.

If you have a news tip, let us know about. It's kind of our thing.

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721-8360

Inventor designs world's first flying car

by Kurt Heinrich

"It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's . . . a Skycar!"

That's what Skycar inventor Paul Moller hopes we'll all be saying in the future.

The B.C.-born inventor and head of Moller International has spent his entire life working to realize his dream of developing a flying car to revolutionize public travel.

Inspired by hummingbirds when he was a young man growing up in Trail, B.C., Moller has gone through hundreds of millions of dollars, survived repeated bankruptcies, and developed numerous new technologies on his quest to change the way we travel.

"It will change the way we live for just about everyone," said Moller from his office in Davis, California. "There are a whole bunch of things that will change. The ability to go anywhere you want isn't something we can do today. This is a way where everyone would have the option."

His company, Moller International, intends to do this through the design and eventual mass production of the M400 Skycar, one of a series of models the inventor has been developing since his first days in graduate engineering studies at McGill University.

Using a hybrid technology developed for helicopters and aircrafts, with principles gathered from the British Harrier jump jet, Moller's new vehicle can carry four passengers at a top speed of roughly 375 miles per hour (over 600 kilometres per hour) at 13,200 feet (4.02 kilometres).

While the shape of the car has changed over time, the engine has also significantly evolved.

"Really, the key to the sky car is the power of the engine," said Moller. "The engine is continually being improved. It gets better and better by the year."

Moller's engine is both powerful and safe. Like Indy formula racers, the Skycar runs on ethanol alcohol, which is produced from biomass. The fuel is also more economical. It is roughly equivalent to the price of gasoline at the moment, though Moller is confident that when his invention reaches the level of mass production the price of ethanol fuel will drop significantly.

While the fuel may be more affordable, the M400 Skycar certainly isn't—at least not at the moment. Costing roughly $500,000 US (nearly $582,000 Cdn) each, they command a hefty price tag, which the company believes will significantly diminish after mass production begins.

Once factories begin pumping out Skycars at a faster rate, the company expects the price tag for your brand new vehicle to drop to that of a "quality automobile," or around $60,000 to $80,000 US ($70,000 to $93,000 Cdn).

Added to the price of the car will of course be your insurance premiums; at the moment Moller International's insurance costs are so high that its prototype can only be flown while tethered to a large crane by a safety cord to protect it from "catastrophic failure."

The inability to test the M400 without the safety tether is only one of the many challenges Moller has faced. The inventor remembers a number of times when his dream was on the cusp of oblivion, and he was on the edge of bankruptcy, with Moller International owing millions, the staff working without pay, and the bank threatening to close the shop's doors.

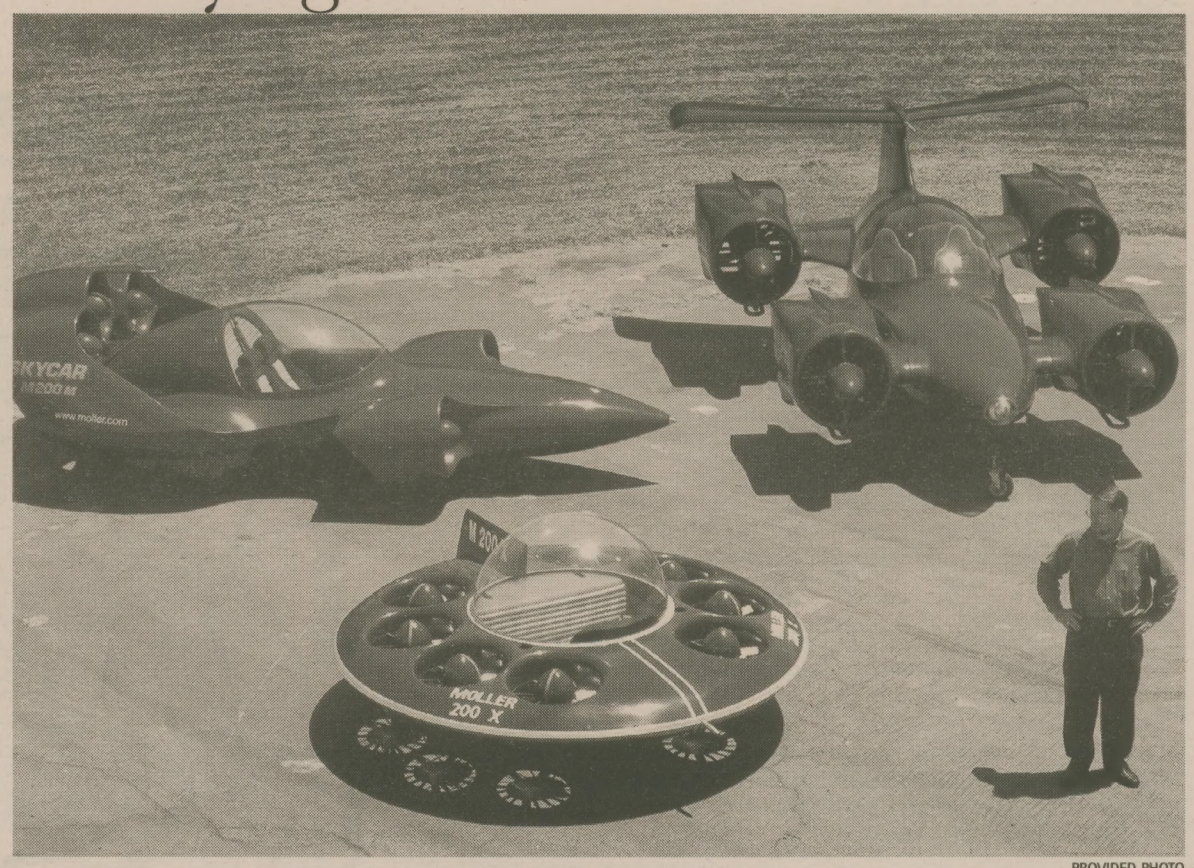
Moller refers to his company's recoveries in an almost spiritual way. "I've had a number of miracle recoveries," he declared emphatically when speaking of the many last-minute opportunities he has seized to keep his company afloat and his dream alive. "The biggest triumph has been survival."

Yet while the Skycar and the company have survived the financial perils, the newest challenge for Moller International is transforming its prototype M400 into a commercially marketable product. Partnerships have been formed with Pratt & Whitney for the production of the engine, though the company is still searching for an aerospace partner to produce the body. It is a search that is increasingly drawing their attention outside of North America.

"The U.S.A. is not very good at the intermediary stage between invention and execution," said Moller, who says the company has now been forced to examine development offers in both China and India.

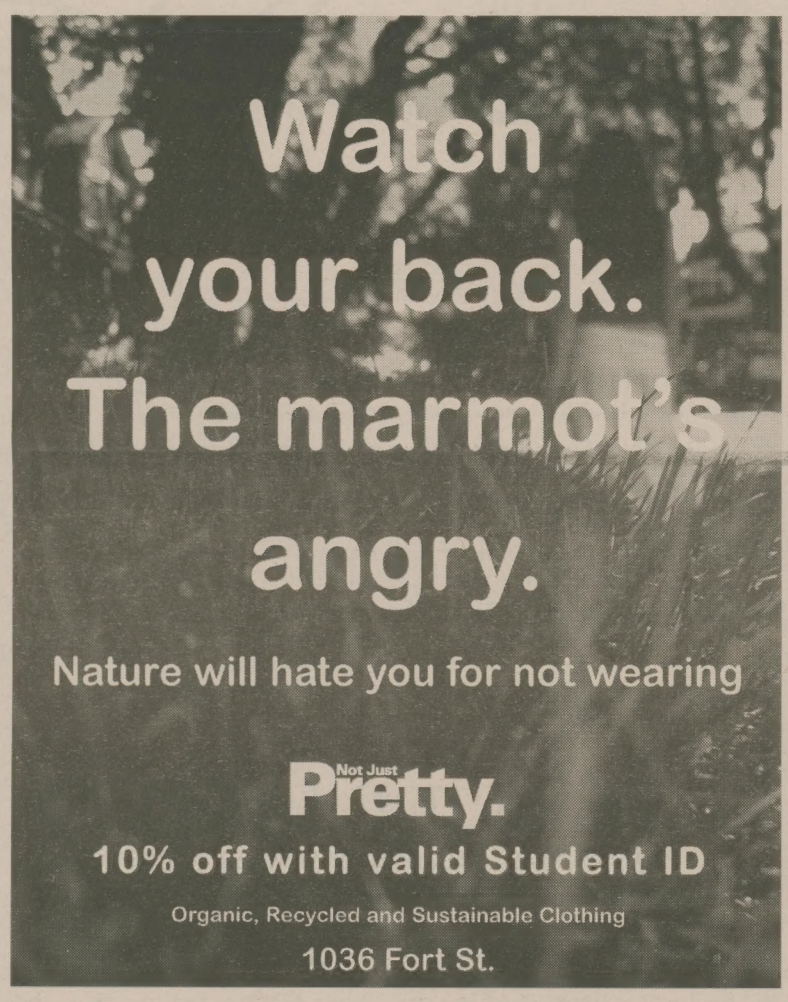
Despite these difficulties, Moller is confident that one day very soon Skycars will revolutionize the way the world travels.

"I think we will be out there with vehicles by 2008," said Moller confidently.



PROVIDED PHOTO

No, we did not make this up: Pictured above is the Skycar M400 (upper right), a flying vehicle projected to be released in 2008.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Accessing Government Records: FOIs and More
Wednesday January 18th | 12:30-4:00pm | Elliot Building Rm 60
Investigative journalist Russ Francis tells us how he accesses hundreds of records on topics such as BC government contracts, politicians' assets and campaign donations. Learn how to dig up the dirt with one of the best. Then, **Will Horter of the Dogwood Initiative** focuses on the BC Government's Freedom of Information (FOI) process. This workshop will walk you through the process of submitting a request, the rules for exemption from any fees, and the appeal process. Learn the tricks of the trade to expedite requests, avoid fees, and get the information you really want (and the government doesn't want you to have).

Collaborative Research with Women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside
Thursday January 19th | 10:30-12:30pm | Grad Student Bldg Rm 108
What are the lessons learned from the Health and Home research project which sought to highlight the voices of low-income women in Downtown Eastside Vancouver on the links between health and housing? **Susan Boyd, associate professor in Studies in Policy & Practice and Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Addictions Research-BC (CARBC)**, will discuss both the rewards and the challenges learned from her interviews with the community-based researchers and research assistants. Was collaboration realized? What are their recommendations for future collaborative research projects? ***(this workshop is co-sponsored by CARBC)***

Transforming Community Practice
Wednesday January 25th | 1:30-3:30 | Harry Hickman Bldg Rm 110
Research, in the context of community practice, is complex and has to be considered very carefully. For the purposes of her doctorate, Jannit situated her own work with various marginalized communities as her research rather than creating a new structure with research as the primary focus. In her presentation **Jannit Rabinovitch, a community practice researcher for the past 15 years**, will talk about some of the ethical issues raised by community-based research in the context of the community work in which she has been engaged.

Editorial

Polls decide election before voting day

The election isn't for a few days yet, but the media is saying we're going to have a Conservative majority government.

Reading the headlines, it appears the race is all but over. Stop paying attention and toss out your voting card, there's no point in going to the polls—it's been decided.

The Conservatives have jumped up in the polls, with some placing their support as high as 40 per cent of decided voters, while the Liberals have slipped from 40 per cent support to as low as 27 per cent.

Don't tell the pollsters or the news media, but there's this little thing people do during an election. It's called voting, and it's what determines the outcome.

Many news outlets seem to have forgotten that election campaigns should be about people, issues and platforms. Instead, they are merely trying to predict who will win and what the CBC calls the "day-to-day horse race results."

But even more important than poll's distracting citizens from the real news is the fact that they can influence how people vote.

Although not everyone agrees, many experts argue that polls can and do influence politics, especially in close campaigns.

Those who believe people can be swayed by polls cite three effects: the "bandwagon effect," in which people perceive a party is going to be elected and decide to vote the same way; the "underdog effect," in which voters decide to cast ballots in sympathy with the second or third place candidate or party; and strategic voting, in which voters decide to vote for their second-choice candidate in an effort to make sure a disliked frontrunner doesn't get elected.

In addition, polls are far from perfect. For starters, there's that vague "margin of error plus or minus 2.9 percentage points, 19 times out of 20" bit. The numbers are based on the answers of a relatively small group of people. Older people and rural dwellers answer the questions more often than younger people and urban dwellers. All of these things affect the results.

And never mind the fact that the order in which questions are asked and names or parties are given can influence how a person answers, pushing them in a desired direction.

Add the fact that polls can be just plain wrong and you get a bunch of misinformed or misled people going to vote believing that the Conservative Party already has the election in the bag.

Not only is this not useful, it damages the ideal of democracy.

Citizens need to be able to make informed decisions, but they need the right kind of information. When people vote in reaction to what they believe other people are doing, it means they aren't voting for the party or candidate that they truly support. They have been manipulated—unintentionally, let's hope, and with no sure prediction of how they will react, but manipulated all the same.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

edit@martlet.ca

THUMBS UP | THUMBS DOWN

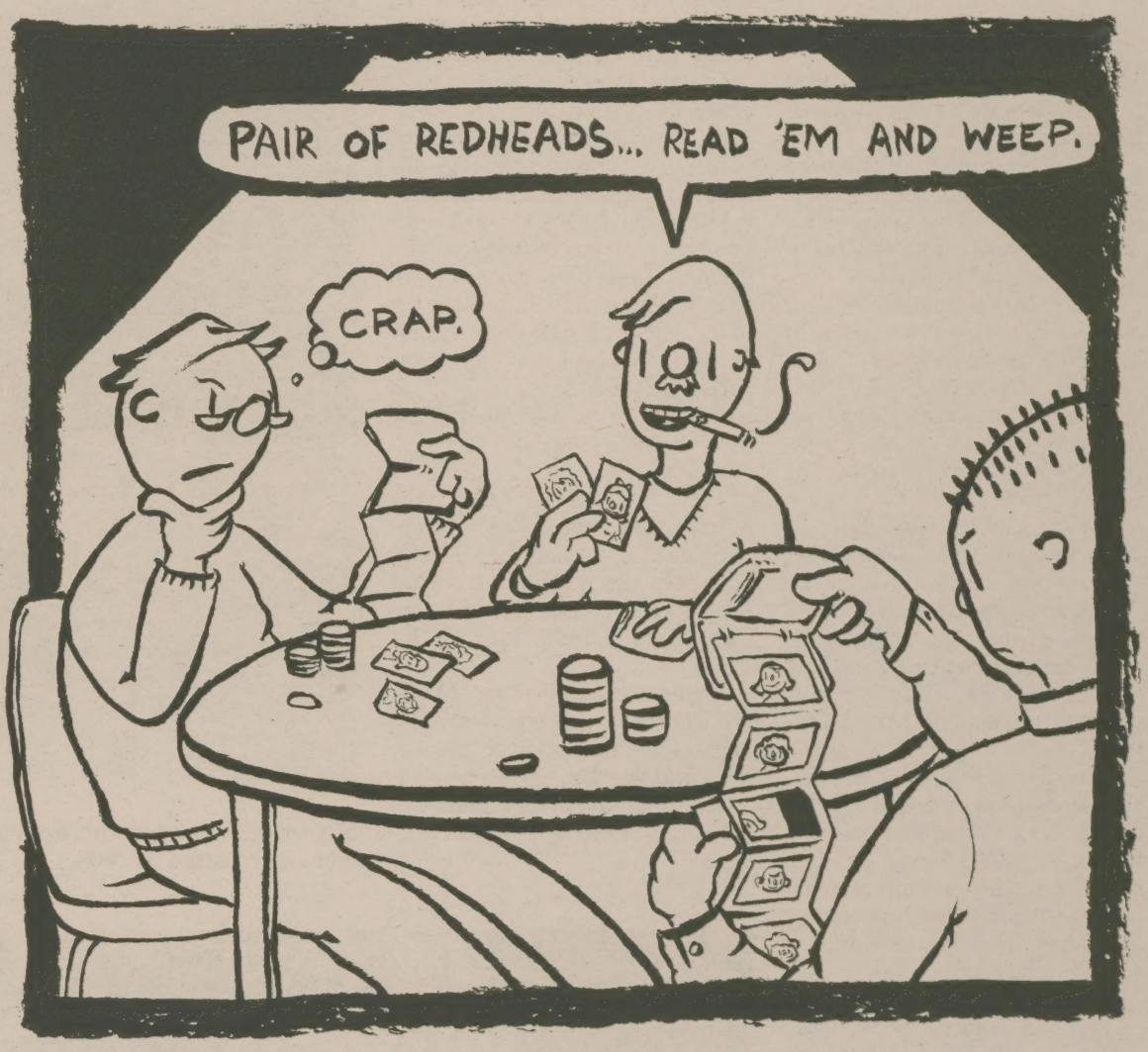
Thumbs Up
To Paul Moller, head of Moller International, who finally invented a flying car. This could reduce our consumption of oil, as well as finally get us started on the road to the Jetson's life we've all been waiting for. Oh, Rosie.

Thumbs Down
To whatever high-witted prankster filled the fountain with soapsuds. At least there were no ducks around to die for the cause.

Thumbs Up
To *Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones* for being generally awesome, and the prince himself for smoldering with generic rage.

Thumbs Down
Children and bunnies. Seriously, what's so wonderful about them? Oh, wait! You know what would be even worse, some kind of bunny/child hybrid. Bad times.

EDITORIAL CARTOON | POLYGAMY MEANS ALWAYS HAVING TO SAY YOU'RE SORRY



ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Re: David Crow's review

I have been laboring for useless hours in frustration trying to find the words to explain just what it is about David Crow's review of *My Melancholy Whores* in the last issue, that pisses me off so much.

I have decided that rather than try to pick into the review itself, I will say instead simply this: if a person can give a careful, close and thoughtful reading to Marquez' new novella they will find that every page has with the same striking quality and character as Marquez has been delivering throughout the best of his lifetime of work. It certainly does not have the scope as some of his milestone works, but to call it nothing more than an account of the frailty of age and love is to underestimate it to the point of blind ignorance.

Mr. Crow – David, don't expect for a man of eighty to come out and slap you blatantly in the face with "another Nobel-caliber effort;" if you wait for such an assault, you probably won't get it. Instead, why not give an accomplished author the benefit of your doubts?

If you had paid any real attention, you might have found a brilliantly subtle and vivid, and fulfilling read.

-Alex Laidlaw

Eine kleine anarchy

by Kim Armstrong

As Canadians, we have long taken pride in our democratic status. The right to vote is entrenched in our charter of rights and freedoms, and I've looked forward to the day that I could mark my ballot to choose the leader of our country.

Now that the moment is finally here, however, I am filled with a strange trepidation.

Are the men we see bickering at each all-candidates debate really the best that Canada has to offer?

As poor as America's international image has been, it took a definite downslide when Dubya entered the Oval Office.

Unless Canada is careful, we may soon reach the point where, instead of traveling U.S. citizens slap a Canadian flag on their backpacks to escape the heat, Canadians will be forced to proudly wave the stars and stripes just to avoid snide remarks and sniggers.

So who are the main players in this high-stakes farce?

Let's start with Paul Martin—the man who is single-handedly destroying the party that I would otherwise back, the party that, until he came along, enjoyed more than a decade of popular support.

What Mr. Martin failed to realize when plotting his coup against Jean Chrétien was that his plan needed a part B—What To Do Once You're In Power. Martin's sole aim in gaining the position of Prime Minister seems to be to hold the position of Prime Minister, not to change anything in particular, and it shows.

On the plus side, even if by some miracle the Liberals win again, Paul Martin will be out on his aging fanny.

A party whose leader has given them nothing but minority governments is not going to settle for returning the favour with a pat on the head and a consolation drink.

Then we have our stalwart challenger: Mr. Harper. A man who, once an election has been called, makes it his first priority to try to ban gay marriage once again, after its denial was deemed unconstitutional in seven provinces, is not a man I would in any way wish to see running the country. It's like someone in South Africa standing up and saying, "Apartheid, now there was a good idea."

NDP leader Jack Layton seems permanently surprised that he is actually the elected head of a federal party, although admittedly the party has a long record of being as clueless as he is.

Others have also noticed his complete lack of authority. In a recent radio broadcast, both Harper and Martin were reportedly asked what they would do if elected to office. Layton was asked whom he would support in power.

A leader I have no problem with is Gilles Duceppe, although the Bloc isn't running candidates outside Quebec. Even if they win every one of Quebec's 75 seats, the party will make up less than a quarter of the House of Commons. Even if the remaining seats are equally divided between the NDP, the Conservatives and the Liberals, the Bloc has no chance of forming the government party.

Apparently, though, none of our other aspiring leaders have bothered to do the rather simple math surrounding this issue. A significant amount of their early debate time was spent trying to discredit one of Canada's quirkier parties, which, as things stand, merely serves to give Quebec a voice in national politics.

I knew the federal election was really in trouble when I started entertaining serious thoughts of anarchy, and nothing I've seen since has served to change my mind. This time 'round, it's really a matter of choosing the lesser of three evils.

In the end, there is only one thing I can do. On the morning of the 23rd I will wake up, pour myself a stiff drink and go make my mark for the Liberals.

Who knows? Despite all evidence, it may still turn out okay.

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Fear and Loathing at the ballot boxes

How to vote with pride

by Tim Hanson

Ah spring, that beautiful time of year where I fervently cast off my political inhibitions and vote for whom I find the most ideologically suitable. Or, maybe, the time when I head over to Felicita's, order myself a pitcher and contemplate the depression that is the election forecast.

Voting is a complex decision and each time I do it I feel like I've been cheated in some way, or like I've had my hand forced by the political landscape of the rest of the populace.

I'm talking about what's known as strategic voting: that scenario where, for example, you hate the Conservatives and don't want them to win, love the Green Party or the NDP and wish that they actually had a chance of winning, but end up voting for the Liberals because they're the only ones left whose governance leaves a less bitter taste in the mouth and could actually get into office.

Strategic voting leaves many people feeling uneasy because it separates their voting preferences from their preferred outcomes. The candidates we vote for become attractive to us because we despise them the least instead of prefer them the most. It feels dishonest to us and so we justify it by saying that "things could've been worse" or "at least I'm not wasting my vote."

The truth is, the only way to waste your vote is to not vote at all.

Canadian politics is more than a little dysfunctional. Here we have a government that is embroiled in scandal and losing the faith of its citizens day by day, and yet will probably retain a foothold in office because of fear of the alternative. This is understandable from my point of view, but it totally throws this outdated and admittedly trivial concept of accountability out the window.

But where fear plays most mightily is the possibility that the candidate we vote for might not get elected. Then someone who doesn't agree with our views will be misrepresenting us in Ottawa.

The idea that a vote is wasted in this regard is ridiculous. Failing to elect your preferred candidate is not a loss, and any vote cast against a candidate you find ideologically unsuitable is a vote well used. In the entire scheme of things, your vote can only do so much, and sometimes you don't have a clue which way an election's going to go.

So agonize as much as you want about how most of the populace is going to vote.

Argue with your friends over who has the best chance of defeating the Conservatives. Mull over the demographics of your riding as much as you please, and on the off chance that the candidate that got your strategic vote does get elected, guess what? It still doesn't mean squat.

You're still going to wake up the next day and wonder, "Did I do the right thing by voting the way I did?"

And the answer is always going to be no.

Failing electoral reform that moves us to some kind of transferable vote system or political parties that stop preying on our fear, the only thing that's going to make you feel better is actually voting for your preferred party.

Sure, anything's better than that worst-case scenario you want to avoid, but don't you remember how cool it was when you danced with the hottie that you were too afraid to ask to dance but did anyway? As for me, I'm tired of having my fears played on and this time I'm going to vote for the candidate I most prefer.

Yeah, they may not get elected but at least this year I can leave the polling station with my head held high, instead of hiding from my reflection when I get home.

Dangerous Ideas

Is knowledge headed in the right direction?

by Jared Watson

Every year, John Brockman, a writer for The Edge, an online magazine about ideas from the intellectual world, poses a question to today's leading thinkers. His question for 2006 is, "What is your dangerous idea?"

Respondents were to articulate a thought with implications that could have a profoundly troubling effect on society. This question was directed to "scientific thinkers" including leading biologists, physicists, philosophers and anyone else who had something to say about the general direction of scientific inquiry.

Many answers dealt with the problematic relationship between organized religion and science, with some espousing the need for an ultimate triumph of science over religion. Others sought a complementary role between the two. Genetics and the increasing role of computers in our daily lives were also popular topics.

In reading through a variety of answers, I was struck by a troubling theme, which ultimately led me to a dangerous idea of my own: Today's great thinkers are too specialized.

Every year, we expand our knowledge in all areas of study. As the knowledge we obtain has become increasingly complex, we have required our leading researchers to become ever more specialized in their discipline.

This complexity has had the unfortunate side effect of ensuring that an ever-increasing gulf has appeared between those who specialize in a specific field and the rest of us who remain largely ignorant; the educated layperson is becoming an endangered species.

Each respondent to Brockman's question no doubt possesses a PhD (or at least a master's degree) in their respective study, but reading through their contributions leaves one with the uneasy feeling that their musings may be missing some sort of bigger picture.

When one conjures up the images of the great thinkers of antiquity, one is immediately struck by the level of intellectual "dabbling" these great figures did. To be respected as a thinker, one had to be part philosopher, part mathematician, part scientist and part historian. It was by diversifying their knowledge that these great thinkers sought to find some sort of fundamental truth about our world.

My concern is that, as each area of study requires a deeper understanding of an increasing load of material, we have too few thinkers who have a broad knowledge of the world and can potentially link ideas across disciplines.

An example is the field of biology. We now possess the technical knowledge needed to clone ourselves. Yet, to receive a B.Sc. in biology at UVic, one is not required to take a single course devoted to ethics. I have no doubt that ethics are discussed throughout many of the classes, but the implications of some of the research that we could potentially see in the next decade deal with profound moral dilemmas.

For example, if we could find a specific set of genes responsible for a person's ability to learn, many would argue that this knowledge could be used constructively to help design curricula to suit each individual's genetic disposition toward learning. However, what if in our research we discovered that a certain group of people (i.e. race, gender) were genetically inclined to be smarter than others?

The result could be a degradation of society into a form of Social Darwinism that attempts to justify the oppression of one people by another. The question we have to ask ourselves is whether the pursuit of scientific truth is worth the possibility of undoing 50 years worth of multiculturalism, or feminism, or tolerance in general.

I personally want to believe that the issue is moot, but to be unprepared for such a contingency would be tantamount to intellectual negligence. Before we embark on discovering the hidden secrets of genetics, we have to come to terms with the unpleasant possibilities—and this is a dialogue that has to include more of society than just the biologists who are directly involved.

Perhaps there is nothing to worry about. After all, anyone with a basic knowledge of the evolution of human societies will tell you that specialization is the result of prosperity. By that measure, our ability to branch off into ever diverging fields of study is cause for celebration, not concern.

But I worry that at some point the brilliance of our scholars will be lost even on the majority of educated people because it is just too far over their heads.

Martin and Harper fight over common views

A vote for either is a vote for the 'Libervatives'

by Taryn Danford

A question Liberal voters need to ask themselves is: Do they vote Liberal just because they can't stand the idea of a Conservative government, or do they vote Liberal because they actually like the Liberals?

For years, these parties have been the main competitors for the title of top dog of Canada. But I can't figure out why we care which one takes power over our country. How different are they, really?

Over the years, the two top parties have tried to oppose each other, and yet they now blend together and share the same views on many issues.

As a Green girl myself, both the leading parties bore me, acting like small children fighting over toys. While the name-calling has been going on for a while, it was only last week that the Liberal and Conservative parties finally graced their websites with their platforms.

Rifling through the Liberals' 86 page red-covered platform was almost too intense too handle. All those promises sure are exciting. To calm myself, I reached for the Conservatives' blue book, which was just as stimulating with it's 25-page repeat of the Liberals' promises. I got so worked up I had to stop and catch my breath.

Let's compare some statements:

The Liberals promise to acknowledge and help the nation's growing concern with early childcare and education. The Paul Martin government outlines that they will commit "$5 million . . . that is open to all children, without discrimination; that is accessible and affordable for all parents."

Surprise, surprise, the Conservatives make a similar promise to "create 125,000 new childcare spaces over five years and make it easier for working people to juggle childcare and work responsibilities."

Although worded differently, both parties are basically outlining the same proposal.

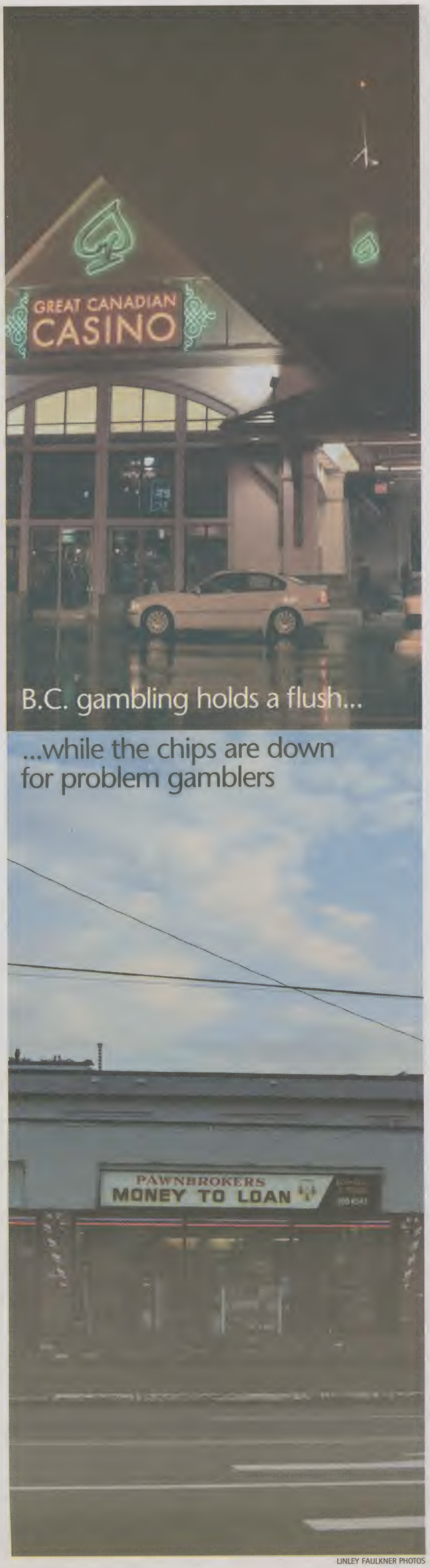
Why the two parties can't accept the fact that they are similar is unapparent to me. They continually agree on many issues, yet both spend a lot of time bashing the others' platform.

Both agree to increase the schooling budget for postsecondary education, protect senior citizens from over-taxation, and make Canada a more environmentally friendly country.

The verdict is in: the Liberal and Conservative parties of Canada think in unison. And with good reason. It makes sense for the Conservatives to agree with the Liberals because, after all, the Liberals are in power and have been for a long time. If Harper wants to sway votes, the less radical the change, the more willing people will be to vote Conservative.

Or perhaps people won't vote at all. I'm sick of both Martin and Harper—it's time to be unique. Politics have always encouraged conflict, but the parties of today hardly conflict. In fact, they practically match up.

Voting for either of these parties means routine. Break the mould. Invite change into Canada by considering an alternative to the twin leading parties.



LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTOS

ONE MAN'S WAGER

By Matthew Gauk

When I spoke to him on the phone, Dean suggested meeting at a café on Cook Street. He's late.

I get a coffee and sit at a table looking out into the street. Dean comes walking down the sidewalk 10 minutes later, hands in the pockets of his winter jacket and wearing a ball-cap with an emblazoned "R" like he said he'd be. He comes in, though he doesn't order anything. The group is abstinence-based, so some members don't partake of minor drugs such as caffeine.

We go out on the patio and I turn on the tape recorder. The tables around us are crowded with people jabbering away excitedly. Dean has a slow and thoughtful way of speaking, and he's very quiet.

"I've been clean for 15 years."

Dean, who asked that his last name be withheld, is a senior member of the Victoria chapter of Gamblers Anonymous (GA), a weekly social support group for people dealing with gambling problems.

Fifty-five-year-old Dean started gambling at a very young age. He bet on everything he could, from high-stakes marbles to casino games, to risky, undercapitalized business investments.

"I was addicted to my own adrenaline and I constantly needed a crisis of some sort to provoke that adrenaline."

While in recovery for another addiction some 25 years ago, Dean saw an opportunity to deal with his gambling. He was introduced to the GA branch in the Saskatchewan town where he was living at the time and started attending.

"It was instant," says Dean. "One meeting was all I needed to turn the behavior around. I went to meetings after that, but the very first meeting was an awakening for me."

When Dean was working in the construction industry and ran his own business with up to 50 employees. Investment in risky business ventures is a big part of gambling for many people, according to Dean. He uses himself as an example.

"In those days if I had ten grand, I would take on a four or five hundred thousand dollar job. Even just saying it now doesn't make sense."

While entrepreneurialism might be good for most people, Dean thinks it's bad for gamblers. Although his actions created jobs, he was constantly struggling to figure out where the next payroll was coming from. He soon found himself bankrupt.

"Gamblers are said to have 'big shot-itis.' They want to look big and they have big egos."

Ten years later Dean was in Victoria. He was still going to GA and he was clean. And that's where he is today.

Breaking bad habits

Every week the Victoria GA group meets in a room in the Royal Jubilee Hospital. During the hour-long meeting, each member discusses his or her own progress on the 12-step program to recovery. The group has no real leader or chair, doesn't require any funding and is a stable, calm environment in which to discuss the personal, family or financial problems tied up with problem gambling. Anonymity is key.

"It's life and death to some of these people," says Dean. "There are some folks that, if it got out, they might get a divorce or they might get a criminal charge."

It is a mixture of young and old, of people just recognizing a problem and ex-gamblers who have been in recovery for years.

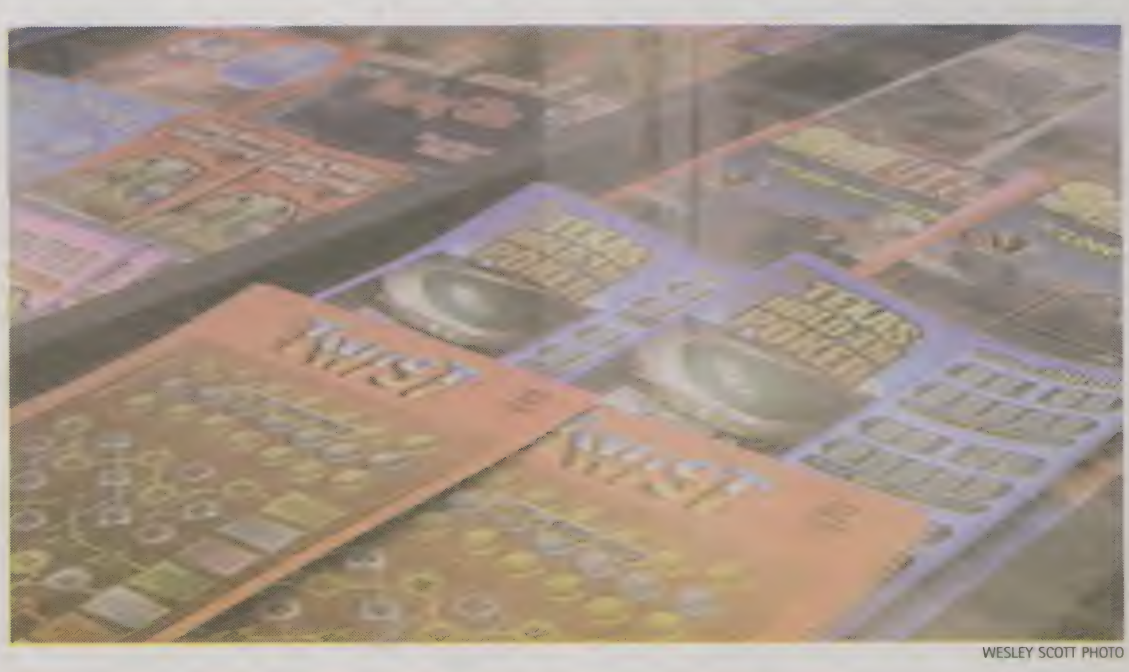
"We have quite a few young people who are just starting out in their relationships and ended up lying to their partners and got themselves into a lot of trouble," says Dean. "There's a lot of guilt involved."

Dean has seen hundreds of people come through the Victoria GA alone in the last few years. Most of the recent problem gamblers were addicted to either Internet or casino gambling.

A billion dollar industry

A report issued in June by the Canada West Foundation established that an increase in available gambling is linked to an increase in the number of people with gambling-related disorders.

The report also found that with 19 casinos, B.C. has more casinos than any other province. B.C's net gambling revenue has been



WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTOS

growing since 1992, thanks to slot machine and casino expansion.

The provincial government, however, spent less per person on problem gambling in 2002 than any province except Newfoundland. It spent the equivalent of $23 per at-risk or problem gambler.

According to the same report, spending on prevention and treatment programs improved in 2003/2004 but still only accounted for 0.55 per cent of the net income of gaming in the province. So, for every $100 raised, 55 cents went to programs designed to alleviate problem gambling. Only Alberta and Newfoundland spent less.

In the last few years and since the Great Canadian Casino opened in View Royal in 2001, there has been a rise in the number of GA members coming from Langford, Colwood and Sooke, says Dean. Last year, the Victoria GA became overcrowded and a new group was formed in Metchosin.

While it's not a new addiction, the opportunities are now greater in Victoria, he says.

Nature or nurture

But what is the source of problem gambling? Is it caused by personal troubles and addictive personalities, or by the availability of legal gambling?

Dr. Tim Pelton is a math education professor at the University of Victoria and works with the Centre for Addictions Research of BC He cites an American study that found that the presence of a gambling facility within 50 miles of a particular city roughly doubles the prevalence of problem and pathological gamblers.

"So there is a relationship," says Pelton. "We don't know whether it's a causative relationship or if it just so happens that people with problems tend to move towards the casinos."

Local casinos aren't the only problem. New trends in gambling go beyond the traditional card game or bingo hall. The advent of Internet poker and high-stakes Texas hold 'em on television have inspired regular pub poker tournaments (for prizes, not cash) and a new generation of young gamblers.

Internet poker is a potential danger because of its isolating effect on the gambler and the fact that players have to trust the foreign corporations that run it, says Pelton. He also takes issue with promotional contests aimed at children from the likes of McDonalds. While ostensibly free, these contests get children used to the "big win" and possibly have an impact on them later in life.

"Teenagers have a tendency to participate in risky activities and gambling is one of those," says Pelton. "There have been reports indicating the incidence of gambling among teenagers is increasing and in all sorts of gambling—from scratch-and-wins to sports betting."

There still isn't enough research done on problem gambling, and the information that is out there isn't very accurate, says Pelton. Depending on how you define problem gambling, you can find that problem gamblers make up 0.5 per cent of five per cent of the population. Vague survey questions about gambling habits make any statistics questionable, but Pelton hopes to reconcile the available information and make a clear picture of what the current problem gambling situation really is.

Producing and policing

All forms of legitimate gaming in B.C., including everything from lottery tickets to bingo to horseracing, are controlled and regulated by the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC). The revenue raised from gaming goes to fund thousands of charities and community organizations, as well as government-run programs.

"It's not like [the government] is avoiding the issue entirely," says Pelton. "But there's a slight conflict here because you've got the government as essentially the producer as well as the policeman. It's an odd situation."

B.C. Partnership for Responsible Gambling, a provincial government program designed to facilitate co-operation between gaming institutions and the government agencies that run them, was created in 2003 to fight problem gambling in the province.

"I wouldn't say there's a huge increase in numbers [of problem gamblers]," says Donna Klingspohn, manager of the partnership. "But there has been a steady increase over the past five or six years."

The B.C. government has introduced a number of measures to ensure the harmful impacts of excessive gambling are limited and that gaming is done in a healthy manner. They claim that 60 per cent of participants in government problem gambling programs reach their goals and either quit gambling or cut down considerably. Based on a satisfaction survey, they claim to have a 95 per cent positive response rate on services offered.

"If you know anything about outcomes in addiction services, that's huge," says Klingspohn.

One such measure is Time Out, a self-exclusion system for problem gamblers managed by the casinos in conjunction with the BCLC and the Partnership for Responsible Gambling. When someone feels their gaming has become problematic, they sign a form saying they will agree to not enter a casino, bingo hall or gambling venue for a set period of time. Until recently the program had been difficult to operate because problem gamblers would disguise themselves and come back to the casino, but the introduction of facial-recognition technology in casino surveillance has changed that.

"Once you've signed up there's no revocation and if you're found in a casino once you've signed the agreement, the security people will escort you out the door," says Klingspohn.

The partnership helps train BCLC staff as well as gaming industry staff. It teaches them to look out for "people in distress" and how to approach them.

The most important aspect of the partnership's operations, however, is the network of about 40 counselors across the province dealing with the problem gamblers who phone the free help-lines. Childcare and travel costs are often covered by the partnership to make getting help as quick and accessible as possible. Recovering problem gamblers are often referred to GA.

"It's not just an issue for the individual gambler, it's not just an issue for the government, it's not just an issue for the gaming industry," says Klingspohn. "Everybody shares a responsibility in that."

Giving problem gambling the boot

There are a number of ways local problem gamblers can be helped with their addictions, says Dean.

Dean sees a definite need for the Gam-Anon program, a sort of GA that includes family and friends in the recovery process, which has yet to come to Victoria.

Also, "there's a need for more than one meeting a week," says Dean. "By the time a gambler reaches GA they're gambling more than occasionally, so they need something to fill their time up. The more contact the better."

Problem gambling is not something addicts get rid of in a day. Neither does it go away in a week, or a month, or even a year. It's something these people deal with for the rest of their lives.

Even Dean, who's been clean for 15 years, has yet to completely swear off gambling. He used to go to a weekly dance every Friday night with his wife. One week they went on a Saturday instead, and the door prize happened to be a pair of men's boots.

"I ended up staying there until two in the morning waiting for the draw for those boots," says Dean. "It's stupid, right? But the next week I wanted to go back again on Saturday."

Dean went to GA that week and told the other members about what happened.

"Only then I realized what was going on. It gave me a real perspective."

The problem gambling toll-free helpline is 1-888-795-6111.

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Making your love life tabloid fodder

by Kinsi Grimen
Excalibur (York University)

TORONTO (CUP) — It's all about the hot and trendy Hollywood, dahling! We simply cannot fall out of style (shudder). We must incorporate this love of anything celebrity into our lives, especially in relation to our relationships.

My fellow celeb-crazed audience, I am here to guide you perplexed souls on how to "celebratize" your own relationship. My sole purpose in life is to help you glam up that dreary affair you are currently engaged in.

Yes, salvation at last! You do not have to be a movie star to feel like one. It is time, my common people, to customize your love lives according to the "Celebrity Couple 101" guidelines.

10. Big glistening teeth are of paramount importance. If the combined power of you and your significant other's teeth does not illuminate a small country, consider this mission failed.

Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey are of inspiration. Their teeth practically sing to you.

9. Nervous breakdowns are in. Mental angst in all its forms is welcomed with open arms. Either you or your significant other must display some form of mental grief.

Unfortunately, not all of us are blessed with a dark past, but as they say: When in doubt, fake it.

8. This is a tricky one. Your significant other must be in jail for some period so you have the opportunity to "stand by your man/woman." Perhaps you can arrange some form of secret vacation for your beloved if he or she is unable to commit some kind of petty criminal activity (coward).

This is the ideal time to perfect your distressed facial expressions and to invest in Dior sunglasses to hide your "anguished" eyes (onions do wonders).

Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown clearly have perfected this step. Bravo!

7. You simply must serenade each other on stage. I'm thinking big hair, gowns stolen off the set of Dallas, a few thousand roses all over the stage and of course, enough lovesick expressions and meaningful gazes from you both to inspire world peace. Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony should be closely watched for pointers.

6. You must proclaim your love at all times. You must fawn so excessively over your significant other that his or her face turns blue with your declarations of love. Stress how "amazing" he or she is, how "exciting" all this is, and how you've been swept off your legs.

5. Finish each other's sentences. This takes a lot of practice, and it can prove to be quite a hassle when people ask you about subjects outside of what you and your partner have practiced together.

When in this precarious position, do not try and improvise, but rather, mention the awful state of affairs in the world today. This way, the questioner will be awestruck by you and your partner's humbleness and world consciousness, and hopefully forget about the original question.

4. It is imperative that you purchase a dog the size of a teacup and wear his cousins on your back. Be sure to steer clear of any animal lovers group. It wouldn't do to have your fur coat stained, especially when you're out on the road "standing by your man."

3. Disappear from the scene for a while. Granted, this may be quite a task when there is no scene to disappear from. Details, dahlings, details!

2. Your (rental) engagement ring's radiance must only be rivaled by that of the sun. Nothing else will do. Your ring must enter the room before you do. The more people you blind, the hotter the "bling."

1. If all fails, then marry Tom Cruise and have him trace the development of your spawn—I mean child—with a sonogram.

ADVOCACY COLUMN | ACCESS UVIC!

Disability and the election

by Rose Mariana Robb

No doubt you've noticed the federal election. Naturally, all the parties have taken some pains to let students know that they really, really would like their vote. It turns out the Liberals, Conservatives, Greens and NDP are all great supporters of post-secondary education—re-vitalized, accessible, affordable, quality post secondary education—nice to know.

What about disabled students? Who should students with disabilities vote for? Is there one party that stands out?

The Green Party leaves us off their Diversity checklist. Gender, race, citizenship and sexual preference make the cut. No disability. The Conservatives promise a passion for liberty and freedom, which is good. We all want freedoms. But will they ensure access to those freedoms for people with disabilities if it's expensive?

The Liberals look better. They consult broadly, so they've got the lingo. They have a track record. Unfortunately, lately, it's bad. The NDP's Jack Layton has announced that one of his first initiatives will be to introduce a Canadians with Disabilities Act. No draft to be found on the website though. Maybe they've just worked out the name so far.

Let's look at the candidates in UVic's riding.

Ariel Lade, the Green Party candidate, seems open and interested. The Greens support the creation of a Canadians with Disabilities Act. Ariel realizes he isn't familiar with disability issues but took the time to call me and sent information from the Green's Disability Advocate. The Greens promise to consult broadly with people with disabilities.

Conservative candidate Robin Baird was not familiar with the issues when I spoke with him in December, but he was very courteous as I foisted a short accessibility film on him. He was more than willing to engage in discussion about removing barriers to employment. However, his website does single out Human Resources and Skills Development Canada for criticism. According to Baird, our money is being squandered by the billions on ill-conceived programs with no spending controls. Ouch. HRSDC was home to the Federal Disabilities Office for years.

I didn't hear back from David Mulroney in time for this column, but Sharon Apsey, from his campaign office, stressed the classic Liberal commitment to equal access to all opportunities for all Canadians, including people with disabilities. She talked knowledgeably about the need for positive changes to the workplace too. Mulroney expresses a strong commitment to the principles of fairness, tolerance and equality. While they haven't greatly advanced disability rights in the past decade, it is fair to say the Liberals have, in the main, protected the gains made between 1982 and 1992, the UN Decade of Disabled Persons.

A conversation with NDP candidate Denise Savoie left me with the impression that Savoie has a special personal commitment to disability issues. Access UVic asked each candidate how their party would increase access to employment for university graduates with disabilities. Savoie responded the most fully and expressed the view that all Canadians will benefit from a more accessible country. I like that.

It's up to you on Election Day. Access UVic! looks forward to working with the new Members of Parliament.

May the best candidates win.

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Elections to the Senate
SIXTEEN STUDENTS (including at least one student from each Faculty – 1 year term)

Elections to the Board of Governors
TWO STUDENTS (1 year term)

For more information about Senate and the Board of Governors please visit the University Secretary's web site at:
http://web.uvic.ca/univsec/elections/nominations.htm

Nominations Close:
Friday, February 3, 2006

Nomination papers must be signed by no fewer than three students eligible to vote, other than the candidate, and by the candidate. Nomination forms are available in Room 410, Business & Economics Building, or from the Student Resource Centre, Room 103, in the Student Union Building on or after January 6, 2006.

A nomination paper is not valid unless it is received in Room 410, Business & Economics Building, University of Victoria, not later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, February 3, 2006.

Important notice – all voting for students to the Senate and the Board of Governors will be processed via the web-vote system. Paper ballots will not be used for this election.

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Go publish yourself

Calgary author Kathleen Mailer self-publishes a book about self-publishing books

by Kim Armstrong

Calgary-based author Kathleen Mailer sees no reason why others should not follow in her literary footsteps.

Her latest work, *How to Write and Publish Your Own Book: From Concept to Bookstore in 90 Days*, is due to be released March 1, followed by a touring workshop of the same name. Both are geared towards helping aspiring authors publish their work.

When asked if she self-publishes, Mailer responds with an enthusiastic, "You betcha, baby!"

That enthusiasm may well have been the crucial ingredient of her success in building her own publishing company, Aurora Publishing, which she founded after trying to self-publish her first book.

"Because of my experience, I just felt really compelled to help authors get their message out."

How to Write and Publish Your Own Book is designed to walk authors through the process of creating a published work, beginning with the writing process and ending with the marketing and sale of the completed product. The book is aimed mainly at potential authors of self-help and informative books, although authors are by no means limited to those formats.

According to Mailer, the world of self-publishing can be a trap for the unprepared and unwary. Just to publish a manuscript, she says, can cost $5000 or more. The hefty price includes an editor's fees, cover and interior illustration, and printing costs.

"We also talk about how to get that paid for. It's really important to find someone who's done it . . . kind of a mentor in the industry. It's important to get your message out there, [but] our fears get in our way."

Mailer, who has written and published nine books, sees self-publishing as a way to help authors move beyond their fears and say what they want to say. There are many myths surrounding the concept of "authorhood," and Mailer is determined to help dispel them.

"One big one is, 'I'm not smart enough.' That is one of the most crazy things I have heard in my life," she says.

Another is, 'I'm too old.' Mailer disagrees. Several of the authors Aurora Publishing deals with are over the age of 65, although her company's authors range from students to senior citizens.

"Our youngest author is nine years old, [and she] wrote a children's book that would knock your socks off."

PHOTO
Author Kathleen Mailer

Although some may consider self-publishing to be inferior to working with an established company, many don't realize the number of well-known authors who have self-published at some point in their career. Mark Twain, Beatrix Potter, Edgar Allan Poe and Galileo Galilei are just a few.

Mailer believes self-publishing is as viable and valid an option as working through a publishing house. In fact, she said "you do just as much work when a publisher picks up your piece as when you self-publish, but you make less money...[Self publishing is] an investment."

Mailer feels too many people have a message that they want to share and no idea of how to make it heard.

"You don't have to have a career to start one," she says. "There are brilliant minds out there."

With *How to Write and Publish Your Own Book*, Mailer is hoping to encourage those brilliant minds and give up-and-comers the help and hope they need to succeed in self-publishing.

Behind the curtain at *The Noble Spaniard*

Backstage tales (and gossip) from a volunteer with the Victoria Theatre Guild

What: Somerset Maugham's *The Noble Spaniard*
Where: Langham Court Theatre, 805 Langham Court
When: Jan. 12 to 28
How much: $15 to $17

by Deborah Daudin

Have you ever wondered what goes on backstage in the theatre? Volunteering with the Victoria Theatre Guild is a great way to find out.

Somerset Maugham's *The Noble Spaniard* is set on the south coast of France in the 1800s, so there are fancy costumes for les 'belles demoiselles,' a striking set with enticing views of the French countryside through the patio doors, and the typical misunderstandings of farce—mistaken identities, romances and duels. And with the cast of this play, things can be as amusing backstage as they are onstage.

Fran Peterson's vivacity as Lady Proudfoot keeps the audience laughing. In between acts, when the actors are hanging around in the "green room," she's much the same, tossing chocolate-covered raisins into the air and catching them in her mouth.

After seeing the show, you'd never suspect the sorts of drastic situations the cast and crew dealt with during rehearsal—such as having to replace the director and one of the play's lead actors just a few weeks before opening. (In fact, other than the Spaniard, none of male actors has kept the role he was originally cast in.)

Peterson was very practical about the changes, saying, "It keeps you on your toes; you just have to get on with it!" The role of Lord Proudfoot, now being played by Alan Omerod, actually saw no less than five actors step in to play the character, from the time the cast first started rehearsals up until opening night on Jan. 12.

Two interesting additions to the show's cast are Harriet Chubb as the maid and Persia Lawson as Lucy.

Both girls are UK exchange students studying at UVic. Their natural English accents lend a note of authenticity and charm to the tone of the play.

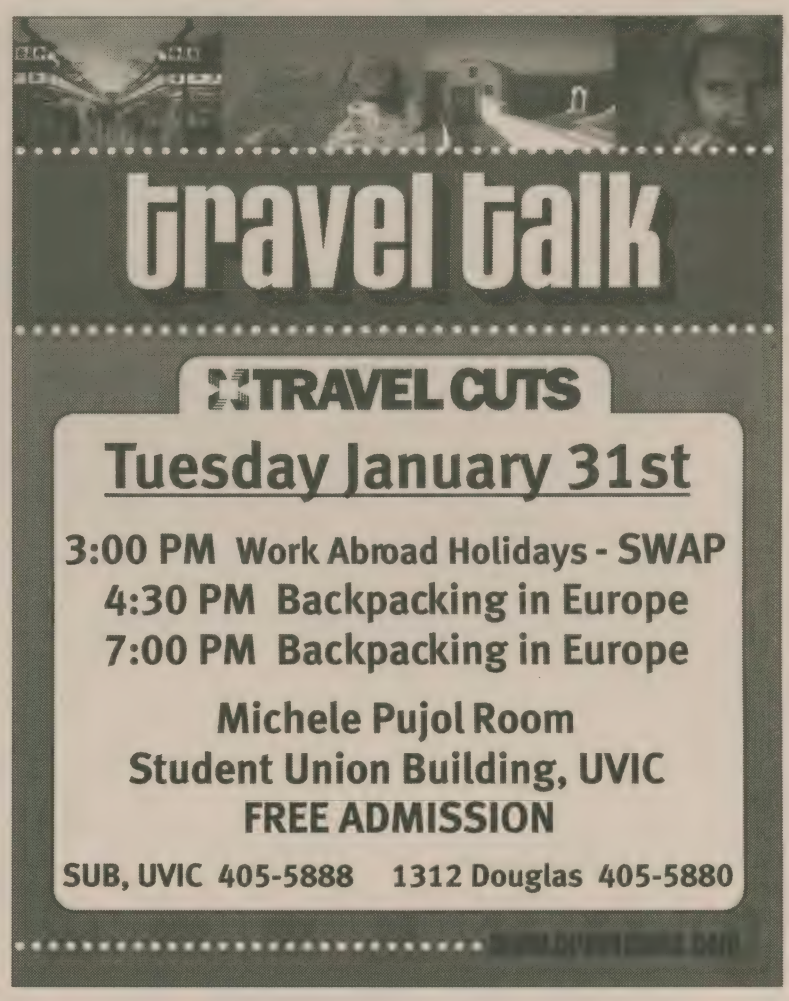
Both Chubb and Lawson have been on the stage at home. According to Chubb, who did her A-Levels (exams) in theatre, it has been very different working here than at home. "All of my previous experience has been with people of my own age. This has been a really good experience. I can't get over how professional working with the Victoria Theatre Guild has been."

The theatre, which has recently undergone extensive backstage renovations, now has an operational costume loft that serves the guild's productions as well as costume rentals.

The Noble Spaniard was supposed to be set in an earlier part of the 1800s, but a later date was chosen to suit the stock of costumes available. Even then, Kezia Pendleton, costume designer for the show, had to do more than wave her magic wand to make the costumes look authentic.

In spite of the personal and health problems that plagued the show from the onset, the cast and crew of *The Noble Spaniard* have managed to bring their talent together under the direction of Ned Lemley, taking over for Robert Adam, who fell ill before Christmas.

It would be somewhat of a cliché to say "the show must go on," but in the end, that's what it's all about—putting a show on, and doing it well.



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BAND PROFILE | GHOSTS

The spectral sound of 'growing up in a rainforest'

Local synth-rockers Ghosts embrace '80s alt-pop and a punk-rock writing style

by Michelle da Silva

If you're not getting paid, you can do whatever you want. That's the philosophy Ghosts has stood by for five years. While the music industry hunts for marketable acts, and integrity is the cost of success, Victoria's Ghosts has its feet firmly planted on the local stage.

"That isn't to say that if the right opportunity came up to play for a living, I wouldn't do it in a heartbeat," says guitarist/singer Brad Kurushima. "You just see so many bands fucking destroy themselves."

Kurushima supplies the band's hard guitar sounds and understated vocals, with Peter Roland on drums, Lex Holdrith on bass and Ami Brosseau on keyboard.

He remembers three of the band members meeting in the eighth grade at Reynolds Secondary School. Together they won a school version of Battle of the Bands with their ska band, Spock. Over the years, three of the members have made their way through UVic and weaved in and out of local bands (including The Truth About Angels and Three Inches of Blood), but they came together to form Ghosts as "an outlet to explore various aesthetic themes."

"We decided on Ghosts in the end because it could encompass all the sounds that we wanted to be and still be a little provocative," says Kurushima. In its five years as a band, the group has experimented with many different sounds, including punk, alternative pop, rock, and space pop. Although their sound has been compared to the likes of Depeche Mode and Drive Like Jehu, the musicians of Ghosts are determined to carve out their own musical niche.

WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

The group recorded their first album, *The Ice Storm*, in a cabin on Lake Cowichan.

"We sound like us; we're not trying to sound like anyone," says Kurushima.

"But we're definitely not Vancouver!" adds Brosseau.

Last spring, Ghosts released its first full-length album, *The Ice Storm*, under local label Magic Teeth Records after recording several EPs and a 7". The album was recorded in mid-February in an empty cabin on Lake Cowichan.

"That experience made me feel more in touch with my environment," says Kurushima.

Brosseau, who was on hiatus during the recording, adds, "The Pacific Northwest is a landscape that still hasn't fully been explored, yet there are so many myths about it." Both Brad and Ami agree that *The Ice Storm* is about geography—"the sound of growing up in a rainforest," says Brosseau.

Kurushima only recently took up lead vocals. Many of their older songs don't have lyrics, and the song-writing magic often hits during band jam sessions. "In typical punk band fashion, we write the music first," says Kurushima. "Words are added in later."

Ghosts has plans to record a second album this spring, which may encompass either an urban or nautical theme.

The band brought its sounds to Victoria's Lucky Bar on Friday the 13th. Headlining a packed show featuring local favourite The Paper Cranes and Saskatoon-transplant Furry and the Mouse, Ghosts drew an energetic crowd of 20-something band-aids, hot emo kids, and bar-hoppers looking for a good time on a Friday night.

The band members didn't take the stage until after midnight, but their humble, friendly demeanour and tight, no-nonsense sound made them immediate crowd-pleasers. The set was a mix of new compositions and familiar favourites from the band's many eras, which Kurushima explains with descriptors like "old," "old-new," "new" and "newest."

"Sometimes *we* don't even know what we mean," says Brosseau.

They're one of those bands that transitions perfectly—almost too perfectly—to the stage, with every note from the recording reproduced with perplexing clarity. Every song gallops into the next, culminating in the enthusiastic anthem "Rodney Mullen Juice."

"We're serious fun," says Kurushima of the live show.

"We don't try. We just do it," says Brosseau.

Ghosts bring its "serious fun" to the UVSS's SUBzero party Saturday Jan. 21, when it opens for Moka Only.

Asked for their thoughts on playing their alma mater, Kurushima is quick to answer, "We always said we'd play anywhere at least once. Plus, there's always the potential that no one comes, so we can do whatever we want."

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ARTIST PROFILE | ROB DICKINSON

One revolution of the Catherine Wheel

Singer/songwriter Rob Dickinson returns with a fresh new album and a hankering for . . . car design?

PROVIDED PHOTO

Dickinson: 'I was enjoying a real life not being in a rock band.'

by Pamela Chelin

For anyone who followed the British shoegazer era, the song "Black Metallic" established the British band Catherine Wheel as an innovator of sweet, haunting melodies and layered guitars. They made melancholy compelling and sexy. Over the course of 10 years, the English band released six records, attracting a rabid cult following and famous fans like Billy Corgan (The Smashing Pumpkins) and Chris Martin (Coldplay).

Unfortunately, despite both fan and critical acclaim, especially for their stunning *Adam and Eve* (released in 1997), Catherine Wheel never received the full recognition they deserved. Then, much to the dismay of their fans, the band decided to park themselves after the release of *Wishville* in 2000.

A long half-decade went by before Catherine Wheel's lead singer/songwriter Rob Dickinson re-emerged as a solo artist. Dickinson's first solo release, *Fresh Wine For The Horses* (released in September 2005), picks up where Catherine Wheel left off, with gorgeous, swooping melodies, wise, compassionate lyrics and Dickinson's powerful vocals—sometimes dark and haunting, sometimes gentle and soothing, but always captivating.

This time around, however, as opposed to Catherine Wheel's signature angst, there are elements of optimism and self-acceptance. On "Don't Change", Dickinson croons, "I'm more alive than I know."

On the phone from Los Angeles, Dickinson explains the shift in tone.

"Yes. I absolutely agree. I'm not as hysterical now," he laughs. "These five years allowed me to assess my spot in life with a more objective and less . . . emotional look, and to step dispassionately away from things that used to hang me up. It's a record which very much reflects a new frame of mind, which is a belief in a certain amount of destiny, to have faith in what you really believe in and to be able to stand back and recognize what you've got, instead of worrying about what you haven't got."

In 2001, Dickinson moved from England to New York, where he decided to enjoy his freedom. "I wasn't ready to make a record. I was enjoying a real life not being in a rock band, but the idea was still lurking in my head that I had to make a record, which didn't allow me to totally relax."

Instead of caving to the pressure of immediacy, Dickinson remained strong, wanting to ensure that when he made his solo record, it would be a fresh and worthy endeavour.

"In New York, I had been writing songs, but I didn't feel I had a strong collection of songs that had a focus to them. It had been hard work living in New York, and I really wasn't getting anything done. When I went back to England to see my parents, I wrote "Oceans" (*Fresh Wine*'s second track), which set the bar where I thought the record could go. After that, I wrote a couple more songs. Once I had "My Name Is Love" (the record's lead track and first single), I knew I had a record to make."

Adding to the delay was Dickinson's search for a new sound. "I didn't want to make a record that sounded like another Catherine Wheel record. I was worrying far too hard about repeating the process that I had used with a band. But, what I realized is that what I do best is what I've always done, which is to sit down with a guitar in my lap and write songs that way. So, all that's changed is me. I had something different to say this time around."

It's clear that, over the past five years, Dickinson has learned not only to enjoy making music again, but also to enjoy life and indulge other passions. When he is not writing songs, Dickinson is exploring Los Angeles' car culture with his 1969 Porsche, in addition to applying his university education in car design.

"I'm doing independent work with Porsches. I'm still very much into design. I have reacquainted myself with friends who I went to university with [and] are now people of importance in the car design business. I love it. It's great. It's something I managed to hang on to. And, it's a great relief from music sometimes. I want to start my own motorcycle/car design company." But Dickinson remains as focused and determined as ever when it comes to his music.

He has been playing selected dates around North America to rapturous audiences. *Fresh Wine* is the start of something new for Dickinson—a musical rebirth, and a welcome refreshment for Catherine Wheel fans and newfound followers.

Catch Rob Dickinson's live show at The Media Club in Vancouver on Friday, Jan. 20 at 9 p.m. Check him out on MySpace at www.myspace.com/robdickinson.

Pamela Chelin is a freelance journalist in Toronto. She is working on her first screenplay and has recorded her own record, Open Heart Purgery. *When she is not spending her time writing, she is spending her time writing.*

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Candidates are invited to send a resume with cover letter to Jenny Laing, Director of Education at *laing.ja@shaw.ca*

KOLOT MAYIM REFORM TEMPLE
The Victoria Reform Jewish Congregation

Art, by any other name...

by Micah Luxen

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Res students get creative with alcoholism.

Students at the University of Victoria can't help but flash a little personal style. University is a place to grow, express and create, and many students are creating art, whether they know it or not.

"The way the university is structured . . . it's a combination of discipline and the encouragement of creativity," says Daniel Laskarin, Dean of Visual Arts. Laskarin goes on to say that at UVic there is a code of behaviour students are expected to follow, yet within the confines of that code, students can seek a creative outlet.

Although there is no official university policy encouraging students to be artistic, creative solutions complement technical skills to help solve problems and allow students a consistent form of personal expression.

"Art is highly subjective and it doesn't need an art critic to be labeled art," says Kerry Mason, curator of UVic's Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery. "I think if it's a sincere expression of a person, it's art. So if a student is expressing joy at getting a paper in and rolls in the grass, it is a kind of performance art; it's an expression of the soul."

Visual Arts student Megan Gregory makes sure to surround herself with art. "I've always found various ways to express myself, whether it's drawing with crayons on the wall [or] painting. Through any discipline, you can express yourself, as long as it's what you're really passionate about. I tend to overlook the smaller things, but even a particularly nice scarf [or] accessories that are really personal for people, like a dark green scarf or a bright pink hat."

Gregory goes on to say that the UVic community is very open to students' artistic ideas, as long as they're not offensive to others.

But it's not only the art students who understand the meaning behind their own style. English student Earl Weidner lines empty wine bottles along his residence window, displaying his own personal version of creativity.

"It's sort of artistic. Maybe it's partly decoration; it looks nice when the light comes through the bottles into the room. I'm probably the only res kid who drinks wine and puts it on his window." The display began a year ago when Weidner and his roommates set up bottles around the living room.

"There's something special about alcohol specifically. Nothing else gets put in the window sill . . . . When you put a bunch of bottles up in your window, you don't come across as an individual who only studies, but [who] has some balance in life."

Other res window dressers wouldn't describe their display as artistic, but make their own unique statement nonetheless. "We [stack cans] because we drink every weekend and put [the cans] in the window," says cluster-housing resident Colin Kerry. "Usually we throw them over for the guys to collect in the morning."

What's Kerry's personal statement? He and his roommates support Kokanee.

"[Expression] is a way that our human creativity kind of pops out," says Laskarin. "It demonstrates a real human urge to mark out our uniqueness and to do so through a creative act. It emerges, regardless of encouragement, in ruly and unruly ways. Like stacking up the beer cans:—while it's not the least bit harmful, it's kind of an unruly activity."

While UVic is a breeding ground for artistic works-in-progress, the university is also famous for its collection of high art.

Be sure to visit both the Maltwood art exhibitions and student showcases, but, at the same time, don't forget to enjoy the artwork that your fellow students wear to class.

"What you find at [UVic] shows that creativity is everywhere, the way it will come out around the seams of the world," says Laskarin.

CD | RUTHIE FOSTER

Ruthie Foster
Stages
Blue Corn Music

by Laurie Graham

Ruthie Foster is a traditional yet continually innovative folk artist—a walking, strumming, human catalogue of music's multifaceted past, and she transmits that past in her own voice to audiences all over the continent.

If you haven't yet seen her perform at a summer folk festival, don't worry, you will.

Stages is a collection of live performances from stages in Houston; Austin, Texas; and Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The recording is simple and full, catching the spontaneity of an honest-to-goodness folk act. Her voice is a marvel, acrobatic and sturdy, explosive and smooth.

She dabbles in reggae, soul, blues, gospel, jazz, folk, even the conventional pop song, which she extends with a calm maturity that is anything but conventional in pop music.

Accompanying Foster is Cyd Cassone on percussion and vocals (which come off shaky compared to Foster's astounding alto), as well as a range of backing musicians. In addition to her own material, Foster draws on a catalogue that includes Billie Holiday, Stephen Foster, and Brownie McGhee.

In true folkie form, Foster's message is one of love and memory. If you ain't down with that, you may not like the album. And on first listen, Foster's slower, more introspective songs threaten to transform into schmaltz or adult-contemporary redemption, but any sign of that fades with multiple listens.

Ruthie's singing the truth as she knows it, and *Stages* will grow on you, have no doubt.

CD | KORN

Korn
See You on the Other Side
EMI

by Andrew Tobin

It's expected that a band's fans will also be its biggest enemies following any unwelcome change in its sound. Korn faces this frustrating tradition, as their fickle fans have made sure.

Citing the use of "pop" producers The Matrix for this album, former fans have been skewering this release.

However, after hearing the CD, I can say that their criticism simply doesn't hold water. On *Other Side* we hear Korn progress its *Issues*-era sound, combined with a newfound upbeat side, to make its most refined album yet.

With the absence of former Korn guitarist Head, many fans expected a simpler sound, but there's really not much missing (sorry, Head—I guess you weren't so important after all).

Although still uniquely Korn, the sound is more electronic than before, utilizing the aforementioned producers to the fullest extent, resulting in a vibe that's closer to Marilyn Manson or NIN.

The lyrics are, thankfully, rather more tasteful than on past records (with the exception of "Getting Off"). Jonathan Davis' vocals are better than ever, leaning more often towards singing than growling, while maintaining every bit of emotional impact. Highlights include the venomous "Hypocrites," "Souvenir," and the demented "Seen it All".

If you've heard the first single, "Twisted Transistor," and are (like I was) mildly unimpressed, you should know that it is the weakest song of all 14 tracks.

Fans disappointed by Korn's relatively poor albums since *Issues*, along with people who may have been scared off by the band's more tasteless material, can and should give the group another chance.

CD | TASTE OF CHAOS COMPILATION

Various Artists
The Best of Taste Of Chaos
Warcon Records

by Andrew Tobin

It may be a live tour, but this isn't a live album.

Yeah, that's a bit tough to accept, but once you get past it, this is a great compilation of some exemplary screamo/hardcore tunes.

The first strength of this double-CD is its sheer length. It covers 40 tracks from bands as diverse as The Used, Billy Talent, and Dillinger Escape Plan.

Even the biggest fan of punk/metal music is bound to discover a new favourite band. Fortunately, the diverse disc stays coherent—you probably won't find yourself skipping every other track to suit your tastes (a problem that plagues most other compilations, like the Warped Tour discs).

The range of sounds flows from the lighter side of emo (Matchbook Romance) to the unconscionably heavy (Fear Before the March of Flames) and from the million-selling mainstream to the relatively underground, without dipping into pop-punk for a moment (thank God!).

As the document of a live tour, it would have been nice to hear more than one live song.

As well, there are a few overplayed songs, like Alexisonfire's "Accidents." But those are minor problems with an otherwise awesome collection.

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Chasing the Prince of Persia

Sixteen years and six games later, a legacy of elegant nerdiness finds a conclusion

by Aaron J. Cox

PROVIDED IMAGES

From left, the Prince in *Sands of Time*, the Dark Prince, and the brooding knob from *Warrior Within*.

Before *Doom* popularized computer games back in 1993 by adding blood, guns, and a whole lot of 'tude, Jordan Mechner's *Prince of Persia* caught the attention of techheads looking for a way to have fun with their lightning-quick 12 MHz IBM computers. In 1989, the game to play was Mechner's, an action-adventure that offered revolutionary character animation (modeled on Mechner's brother), skill-based sword-fighting, acrobatic puzzle-solving, and other features never before seen in a PC game.

The story was thin as rice paper—a simplified version of Disney's *Aladdin* in which the Prince must hunt down an evil vizier who plans to wed the princess and rule the kingdom. But that wasn't the point. The original *PoP* was about gameplay, action, and getting killed in inventive ways, like falling hundreds of feet or being impaled on spring-loaded spikes.

Four years later, Mechner released *Prince of Persia 2*, a minor revamp of the original game, taking the Prince out of the palace dungeons and onto the city streets, rooftops, and other more varied environments.

After six years of silence, Mechner tried to revitalize the series by moving it into full 3D, the technology to beat in the late '90s. Every popular 2D game worth its salt had made the transition, including *Super Mario Bros.*, *The Legend of Zelda*, *Mega Man*, and more. Released in 1999, *Prince of Persia 3D* failed both critically and commercially. Translating the title character's fluid acrobatics and combat animations to three dimensions proved too difficult for developer Red Orb Entertainment.

In 2001, a growing game developer and publisher called Ubisoft, with offices in Montreal, acquired the rights to produce a new *Prince of Persia* adventure. This time the game would be available on all gaming platforms—the Xbox, GameCube, PlayStation 2, and PC. While many critics felt that a game catering to such a wide audience would have to make concessions on each platform, the team at Ubisoft worked hard to make the new Prince as playable and elegant as Mechner's original on all systems.

Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (2003) was an enormous success. A new 3D-animation system allowed for lifelike character animations, stunning acrobatic sequences, and scripted cinematic moments that elevated the game to narrative art—an interactive story in which you were the main character. Few games before or since have achieved as much.

The game's "gimmick" was the player's control over time. With the click of a button, the Prince was able to slow down time, execute time-related special attacks, and even reverse the flow of time if he'd made a mistake like, say, falling to his death or getting caught in a trap.

Sands marked the Prince's triumphant return to gaming, and nerds the world over rejoiced—whether they were Nintendo fanboys, PlayStation dorks, or PC gamers.

With the success of *Sands*, Ubisoft quickly set to work developing a sequel.

Prince of Persia: Warrior Within (2004) took the franchise in a new and thoroughly miscalculated direction. Instead of *Sands*' Disney-esque humour and warmth, the developers contrived a world in which the once-heroic Prince had turned to the dark side, so to speak. Actor Yuri Lowenthal, who had voiced the Prince in the previous game, was replaced by Rick Miller, sporting a gruff, manly timbre and a whole lot of sassmouth.

The new Prince was a badass, garbed in worn leather, carrying two bloody swords and hacking apart his foes in some of the most violent videogame action ever created. New combat animations saw the Prince slitting throats, decapitating, dismembering, disemboweling, and behaving otherwise ungentlemanly.

While the violence was controversial, the new combat system was a great improvement. Unfortunately, the rest of the game had taken a step backwards in both quality and originality. *Warrior Within*'s puzzles were convoluted and frustrating, its environments often hard to navigate, and its climactic battles a bit underwhelming. While Ubisoft's second effort was by no means a failure, it lost much of what had made the first game memorable—strong narrative, and the visual and tonal lightness that distinguished *Sands* from so many "mature-themed" action games.

Many fans were disappointed with *Warrior Within*'s new direction, and the game was openly mocked for its soundtrack—a soulless bit of nu-metal thrown together by Godsmack.

Luckily, Ubisoft paid attention to fan criticism and set to work on their third and final *Prince of Persia* game with the goal of returning the franchise to its innovative origins while maintaining *Warrior Within*'s combat system.

Released in December 2005, *Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones* makes good on many of Ubisoft's claims. Gone is the hyper-masculinity of *Warrior Within*, along with its ill-fitting soundtrack. Yuri Lowenthal returns as the voice of the Prince, and his companion Farah, from *Sands*, also makes a welcome return.

In an ingenious bit of design, Ubisoft found a way to confront fan criticism of *Warrior Within* by splitting the Prince in two—in a manner of speaking. From time to time, the Prince is overtaken by his own violent impulses and selfishness. He becomes the Dark Prince, a sinister, fierce-eyed incarnation of the Prince, wielding a massive chain called the Daggertail.

While this sort of moral conflict—allowing the player to be good or evil—has recently become a staple of game design, Ubisoft expertly recast *Warrior Within*'s Rick Miller as the voice of the Dark Prince. Throughout the game, we hear the two incarnations' verbal sparring—the dashing Aladdin-esque protagonist of *Sands* and the selfish, blood-hungry killer of *Warrior Within* bickering about good and evil, selflessness and selfishness, murder and mercy. As the Dark Prince, the player is more powerful in combat, but must continually kill to regain health. The Prince is weaker in combat, but can sustain more damage.

The Two Thrones' gimmick is its "Speed Kill" system, which allows players with quick reflexes to dispatch opponents in quick, violent cinematic sequences executed through a number of expertly timed button presses. Throughout all three games, the ability to control time remains, but the new Speed Kill system makes obsolete many of the time-related powers. Its ferocious efficacy is a real pleasure and helps keep the game moving at a brisk pace.

The final installment in Ubisoft's *Sands of Time* trilogy, *The Two Thrones* is a satisfying conclusion to an impressive chapter in the franchise's history. While it can't boast the same level of polish or narrative wit as *The Sands of Time*, *The Two Thrones* nonetheless offers much of what made the first two games enjoyable, and smooths over the shortcomings of *Warrior Within*.

All three Ubisoft games—*The Sands of Time*, *Warrior Within*, and *The Two Thrones*—are available on PC, Xbox, GameCube, and PlayStation 2. They're a landmark in multiplatform gaming and, developed in Montreal, a testament to Canada's star role in interactive entertainment.

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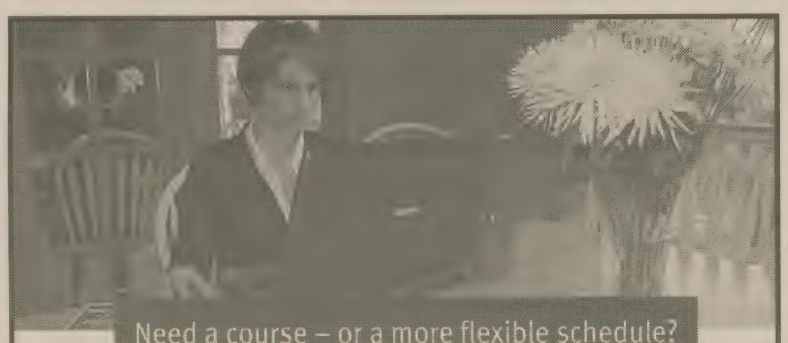

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Gretzky's greatness goes to the highest bidder

Fanatics with deep pockets go after the Great One's gear and contracts

by Megan Stewart

Wayne Gretzky's golden touch with a hockey stick destined him for greatness, and last month the stroke of his pen also turned heads.

Gretzky's first contract with the Oilers—a 10-year deal he signed Jan. 26, 1979, on his 18th birthday—drew near $50,000 US (approximately $58,000 Cdn), twice the amount the Great One made per month playing in Edmonton during the '80s. In nine years he would make $3 million Cdn.

A buyer from a northern American state shelled out $47,476.41 US (over $50,000 Cdn) at auction Dec. 16 through Lelands.com to take home the three-part document signed by Gretzky, his father Walter, the Oilers' general manager Larry Gordon and club owner Peter Pocklington.

Before bidding closed, Lelands president Michael Heffner compared the contract "to Babe Ruth's sale to the New York Yankees."

"This is the deal that put hockey and the city of Edmonton on the map. This is the one that started it all," he said in December.

John Perry, in acquisitions with Lelands, said Gretzky's contribution to the sport is obvious. "He is the most important hockey player of all time. With him, hockey was able to become more of an international sport—even a global sport. His accomplishments are astronomical and people will pay a premium price for that."

Given its significant history and Gretzky's celebrated rise to the heights of the game, Heffner hoped the item would fetch $25,000 US (approximately $29,000 Cdn), but said 18 bids by approximately half a dozen bidders drove the price up.

"It's the most important modern hockey document in existence," he said nearly a month after the sale, on Jan. 13. "This is what put Wayne Gretzky into Edmonton, and Wayne Gretzky turned hockey into a highly respected and highly watched sport. Now hockey is an international phenomenon."

These are not just the sentiments of two New York business types who see hockey as a fledgling American export in the shape of ad space and sales revenue.

The notion of Gretzky changing the shape of hockey around the globe is an idea supported by numerous sport collectors and the president of the Canadian counterpart to Lelands, Classic Auctions.

"I think Mike [Heffner] is right," said Marc Juteau, president of the Quebec-based auction house. "Gretzky was the best ambassador for the sport hockey has ever seen. He was a class act on and off the ice."

Classic Auctions partnered with the Edmonton Oilers last year for a public sale of the team's memorabilia. Sixteen Gretzky items went for a combined $163,000 US (nearly $190,000 Cdn), including "the most important hockey jersey in the history of the game and arguably the most significant jersey worn by the Great One during his outstanding 21-year career." The item in question, Gretzky's '79-'80 Oilers rookie jersey, was preserved by a long-time Oilers employee and went to a Quebecois bidder for $126,365 US (almost $147,000 Cdn).

The famed 99 jersey counts 21 repairs on the arms and front as well as dozens of stick marks, slashes, unrepaired holes, cuts and burn marks.

Gretzky wore the jersey for the first half of the season—the Oilers' first season in the NHL after their move from the World Hockey Association.

That season, Gretzky shattered all doubts about his raw talent and picked up 51 goals and 86 assists for 137 points and a tie for top league point-getter with Marcel Dionne. With those numbers, Gretzky became the youngest player to score 50 goals in a single season, and for his effort he was rewarded his first of nine Hart Trophies as the league's MVP.

VIKES ScoreBoard

Men's field hockey

Vikes 4 – 0 Jokers-B

On Jan. 14 UVic defeated the Vancouver Rugby Club Jokers by a margin of four goals and a shutout for the defense and goaltender.

Newcomers **Bastian de Jong** and **Tyler Kenyon** scored two goals apiece for the Vikes.

Vikes 1 – 0 Hawks-B

In the second of two games Jan. 14 in Vancouver, the Vikes downed the Vancouver Hawks 1–0. **Jonathan West** scored.

Men and women's track

Geoff Martinson claimed a third place finish in the 800m(1:53.80) and in the 1,000m took line honours ahead of second place finisher **Richard Lehman** (PB 2:29.86) with his time of 2:27:72.

UVic's second one-two placing came in the 3,000m as **Tiffany Evans** (10:19.01) and **Christina Heisterman** (PB 10:19.45) shared the winner's circle.

Leah Burley nabbed third in the 1,000m(2:59.99), and her sister, **Heather Burley** took fifth in the same race (3:04.05).

Women's basketball

Vikes 56 – 59 Huskies

In the second game of the weekend's double-header, the Vikes bounded back from the previous game's 21-point loss to the number-three-ranked University of Saskatchewan Huskies. The Vikes dropped the close game by three points, played a hard-fought and exciting match.

Victoria gained a 12-point advantage with eight minutes until the break and went into the half with a 37–28 lead.

The Huskies whittled down the nine-point advantage and took the lead, but less than one minute in the game, **Beckie MacDonald** nailed a three-pointer to bring the Vikes within three, but the shot at the buzzer fell short.

Ashley Kimmett 23 points; MacDonald nine points; **Jamie Bell** seven points, seven assists; **Janet Hatfield** eight boards.

Record: 6–7

Men's basketball

Vikes 91– 58 Huskies

UVic made it a clean sweep of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies in the second of two games Jan. 14 at McKinnon Gym.

Vikes head coach **Craig Beaucamp** said his team was defensively solid both nights, but the difference came in the second night.

The game was close at the half, with the Vikes protecting an eight-point margin 45–37.

After the break the lead only grew. **Tyler Hass** lead an 11-point scoring run with two huge dunks and through the half the Vikes shot 64 per cent from the field compared to the Huskies 44 per cent. Leading the way was **Chris Spoor** who sunk four of four from behind the arc.

Brandon Ellis 16 points; **Steve Moore** 18 points; **Chris Trumpy** 14 points, seven assists; Spoor 14 points.

Record: 10–3

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Rowdyz get the party started

Fans fire up the crowd as much as the team—and they have the endorsement of Thunder, UVic's Viking mascot

by David Karp

It started as something to do Friday nights, but it's become tradition.

For the last two seasons, there's been a special group of fans at every Vikes men's basketball home game. Draped in blue and gold, the dozen or so enthusiasts sport grease-monkey coveralls, Viking-inspired hats, dark sunglasses and painted faces.

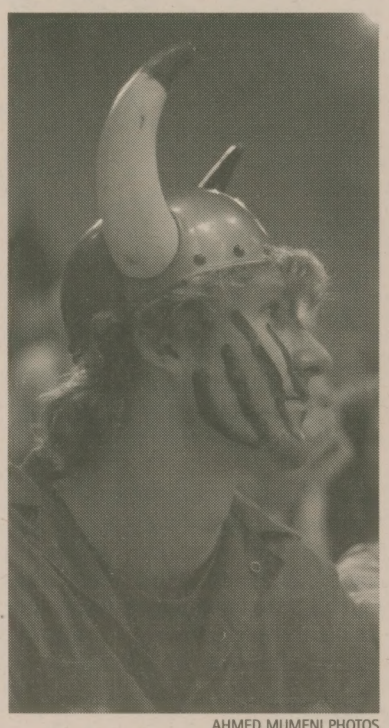
The Rowdyz, as they call themselves, started as a group of six guys who met each other in the Ring Road residence last year. Finding themselves with nothing much to do on weekend nights, they started hitting basketball games. Now, the growing group of Rowdyz are an integral part of the basketball experience at UVic.

"Right after dinner everyone comes over," said Lee Zayonce. "We get face-painted up, we get our suits on, listen to music, get all pumped up."

Equipped with homemade rattles and a hand-painted sign, each Rowdyz's costume is a little different. Nick Rose stands out in white coveralls, others with briefs outside their pants. A few of the Rowdyz sport a set of horns, while Takato Tanako only wears one horn. Dustin Schewfelt, meanwhile, wears a yellow and blue volleyball on his head. "The volleyball was already broken," he explained. "I don't kill innocent beings."

The three female Rowdyz are a little subtler, opting not for hats, sunglasses and face painting, but dark blue t-shirts with gold lightning bolts. "We're not quite as rowdy as they are," said Kate Moore. "But we try," chimed in Steph Goyert.

The Rowdyz are probably the noisiest fans in the building. "Set it up UVic, set it up!" they chanted Jan. 13 against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies. They pick on two Huskies, baptizing one "Sunshine" for his blonde hair and another as "T-Shirt" because he wears one under his jersey.



AHMED MUMENI PHOTOS

Lee Zayonce (above) looks stoic as the Vikes take to the floor Jan. 13.

Rowdyz (right) rarely sit still and are becoming an important part of basketball at UVic.

At times, the Rowdyz run the length of the court behind the team benches and get the crowd to do the wave. On the rare occasions that they're all sitting down, their foot stomping shakes the bleachers.

"This is our way of trying to get some stuff going on at school," said Brendan Matthews, before jumping to his feet to celebrate a Vikes three-pointer.

Their cheering has made life easier for Thunder, the Vikes' mascot. "They help pump me up so I can do my job better," said the cuddly Viking.

"Sometimes I get jealous of their sweet sunglasses, but they don't make them in my size."

And it's not just Thunder the Rowdyz pump up. "They're awesome," said Vikes head coach Craig Beaucamp. "Anytime you've got a bunch of people supporting you and backing you, it makes a difference."

"They get all the UVic students into the game," said second-year student Jeremy Varlow, who was sitting behind the Rowdyz during the Saskatchewan game.

Still, there is something that motivates even the motivators: free pizza. The Rowdyz are often at their loudest when the announcer tells the crowd to "make some noise if you'd like some pizza." Even if they don't score the grub, the event staff sometimes slips them some anyway.

Despite their name, the Rowdyz don't cause too many problems. "We usually let them go pretty good because they pump up the crowd," said James Scott, who has worked security at the games.

In fact, their dedication to the Vikes landed the Rowdyz a job with the Pepsi Get Spotted team. At halftime, the Rowdyz trade in their blue coveralls for black Pepsi-crested ones, handing out prizes and earning a paycheque.

The Rowdyz have made a tradition of sitting behind the Vikes bench, but not just at the campus court in McKinnon Gym—they followed the team to the Canada West Final Four tournament in Edmonton last March. The Rowdyz piled eight people into a minivan borrowed from a parent and hit the road. "We walk in and [the Vikes] are all facing the flag singing the national anthem," remembered Matthews.

"We line up right behind these guys, and we start singing the national anthem real, real slow and quiet. And we get a little bit louder, and a little bit louder, and one of these guys looks behind their shoulder and goes, 'Holy smokes, those Rowdyz drove out here.'"

At the end of the game against Saskatchewan, the Rowdyz jump up and down and high-five each other on another UVic win. Still, their work isn't done. They walk around the gym after the game and chant, "Coach of the year! Coach of the year!" behind Beaucamp during a television interview with CH News.

Eventually, the Rowdyz do leave. "See you tomorrow night," they say politely to an usher on the way out.

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OLYMPIC WARM-UP | SKIING EVENTS

Canadians likely to medal in x-country events

We are three weeks away from the time when—every four years in a snowed-in city—winter Olympians showcase their passion and skill. The 20th Winter Olympiad from Torino, Italy begins Feb. 10, and in the next four issues of the Martlet, *Gavin Day will highlight the sports and some of the Canadian faces we will hear about during the 16 days of the Games.*

He will also send his analysis from the stands and streets of Torino as the Games unfold.

by Gavin Day

Alpine Skiing

The Canadian Alpine Ski Team is enjoying quite the renaissance since Ken Read took over the organization in May 2002.

After failing to win any medals in Salt Lake City that same year, the Canadian ski program was in turmoil. This season, a young and talented team is returning the program to its former glory by consistently scoring podium positions on the World Cup circuit.

Erik Guay leads the way for the Canadian men in the speed disciplines. He is the first Canadian to win two medals in the Super Giant Slalom event in one year. He is also a threat in the downhill, where he is consistently finishing in the top ten.

In the technical events, Thomas Grandi would like nothing better than to win Olympic gold in front of his Italian family and friends. Last season, he won two consecutive Giant Slalom (GS) World Cup events.

François Bourque is another Canadian who could climb onto the podium, having already won a bronze in the GS at Alta Badia, Italy in December.

The big names they will contend with are Americans Bode Miller and Daron Rahlves and the powerful Austrian team led by Hermann Meier. Meier's story is remarkable; he nearly lost his leg two years ago following a motorcycle accident.

On the women's side, the favourite for gold in almost every discipline will be Janica Kostelic of Croatia. She is a sublime all-round skier who is tough to beat, even when she has an off day. Allison Forsyth and Emily Brydon lead the Canadian team, which has not had the same success as the men with only one medal on the World Cup Circuit this year. However, a medal is not out of the question.

Cross-Country Skiing

Canada has the potential to win a handful of medals in cross-country skiing.

Beckie Scott of Vermilion, Alta. is the big name on a Canadian women's team that is expected to bring home numerous medals. Scott is the defending Olympic champion in the same-day pursuit and is a threat in the sprints and the classical relay with partner Sara Renner. Renner, who is married to Grandi, is also a threat in the sprints, having won a bronze medal at last year's world championships.

The classical relay, a new event at the Olympics, will challenge teams of two skiers to alternate racing around a 1.1-kilometre course three times. Scott and Renner took silver in this event at a December meet in Canmore, Alta.

The Norwegians and the Germans will be a threat in almost every discipline. Current overall World Cup leader Marit Bjoergen hails from Norway, and Katrina Neumannova of the Czech Republic is also a favourite to multi-medal.

The Canadian men's cross-country team is still developing, but this time around Canada will be sending a full team. Four years ago, George Grey was the only Canadian male competing. This team will again be focusing on gaining experience, this time looking ahead to Vancouver 2010.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Beckie Scott: gold, silver or bronze in Torino?

The best rivalry in these Games will be between the Norwegians and the Swedes, as the perennial cross-country powers will try to dominate the popular Nordic sport.

The events to watch involving these countries are the sprints and the relay, where photo finishes are a certainty.

Ski-Jumping and Nordic Combined

For the first time since the Albertville Olympics in 1992, Canada will be sending teams in ski jumping and Nordic combined (ski-jumping followed by cross-country skiing). With virtually no funding, this team trains on their own money.

Eighteen-year-old Stefan Read (nephew of Ken Read) and 16-year-old Gregory Baxter will compete both for experience and potential sponsors. Janne Ahonen of Finland and Jakub Janda of the Czech Republic will battle over the gold in both the K-90 (small hill) and the K-120 (big hill) competitions, while the team jumping competition will be a battle between the Finns, the Norwegians and the Japanese.

Jason Myslicki will be the only competitor in the Nordic combined events to wear the maple leaf and in all likelihood will not come close to a medal.

The major nations in Nordic combined are the same that will battle for the medals in ski jumping, with Hannu Manninen and Anssi Koivuranta leading an exceptionally powerful Finnish team.

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The BC Cancer Agency - Vancouver Island Centre is currently recruiting volunteers for Patient Support positions and for their busy TeaLC Café. Shifts are 3 and 4 hour, once a week. If you are interested in volunteering in this rewarding environment and are available to help out during a weekday, please contact Volunteer Services at 519-5500 ext 3747.

ON CAMPUS

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Saturday, Jan. 21, Harry Hickman Bldg., Room 110, 1:00 p.m. Five great speakers. $10 entrance. Rotaractvictoria@gmail.com

GORDON HEAD SCHOOL is holding a BIG community event on January 27th & 28th to celebrate the end of an era as an elementary school. The school will become a middle school in September '06. In addition, the event will celebrate the school's 50 years on Kenmore Road and 115 years in Gordon Head, and a commemorative BOOK has been published to acknowledge these landmark events. The book entitled CELEBRATING OUR PAST tells the story of the school since 1891.

THE NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP - JANUARY MEETING
Nature photographer, Derek Ditchburn will be speaking on Vancouver Island wildflowers Thursday, January 19, 2006 at 7pm sharp, UVic's MacLaurin Bldg, Rm D-116. Non member drop-in fee: $2. For more info contact 595-5820.

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Are you interested in global issues? Then the Commonwealth club is for you! Get involved today! contact courtney at cnoble@uvic.ca

SERVICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join former Monday Magazine Editor James MacKinnon as he discusses his experiences eating a "hundred-mile diet" of locally produced food over the past year. Ray Zimmerman of the Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt Societywill also be making a presentation about the Agricultural Land Reserve in the Capital Region, how it's changed, and why we need to protect our agricultural land. Following these presentations there will be an audience discussion on the state of local agriculture in the South Island and Gulf Islands region. 7 pm, Thursday February 2, St. Anne's Academy Auditorium, 835 Humboldt Street (access off Blanshard). Admission is free.

Easy Rider - Sixties Motorcycle Weekend. Saturday, January 21 and Sunday, January 22 at the Royal BC Museum Saddle up to more than 20 classic motorcycles, including British, American and European models, as the Royal BC Museum celebrates Sixties motorcycle culture in conjunction with the Linda McCartney's Sixties: Portrait of an Era exhibit.

Crocus flowers are always a welcome sign of spring, and every year CNIB's Focus on Crocus fundraiser helps raise money to provide services for people with vision loss on Vancouver Island. Purchase a few pots of these lovely blooms and know you've made difference in the life a person who is visually impaired. Crocuses will be conveniently on sale at all Thrifty Foods locations (2 for $4) from January 25 to February 7, 2006. **Victoria Queer Parents** is a parenting group for members of the GLBT community in southern Vancouver Island who are considering becoming parents, are expecting, or are parenting babies and toddlers. The group meets regularly in Victoria. For more information, contact us by email: victoriaqueerparents@yahoo.ca

Four Corners Language Institute. Mandarin, Arabic, Spanish, ESL, and more! Evening classes Tues & Thurs 7-9 p.m. Teach English Overseas! www.fcli.bc.ca (250)383-6719

FREE ACUPUNCTURE
On campus stress clinic. We bill Green Shield directly. SUB upper lounge — Monday & Thursday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Attention Scooter Owners:
Need a tune-up after the riding season? Call Freedom Motorcycles at 216-2211 for student-priced scooter repairs. Licensed Yamaha mechanic.

Looking for custom embroidered clothing for your Rez floor? Rez hall? Faculty? Fraternity/Sorority? Intramural team? Campus club/organization? We carry brand names like Modrobes, American Apparel, Gildan, Hanes.
Call Rob @ 1-866-220-3861 or go to www.campushoodies.com for your free starter kit/catalogue

The Punjab University, CHANDI GARH (U.T.) INDIA has been designated by the Ministry of Advanced Education British Columbia. If you are interested in obtaining education at the PUNJAB UNIVERSITY CHANDI GARH you can get a student loan from the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education. For more information you can contact: mtatla@uvic.ca

Is your life affected by someone's drinking? Help is available in the Victoria area. Call 383-4020 for more information or visit www.bcyukon-al-anon.org for more information.

Saanich Recreation offers quality, affordable Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton Leagues and Skills Development for pre-teens, teens and adults in state-of-the-art double gymnasium at Colquitz Middle School.
www.saanichrecreation.com or 475-5400 for details.

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HEY YOU

To the Brazilian boy: My Slovakian roommate thinks that the @ house is not the same without you in it. Haha, kiddin'. —da LCPe

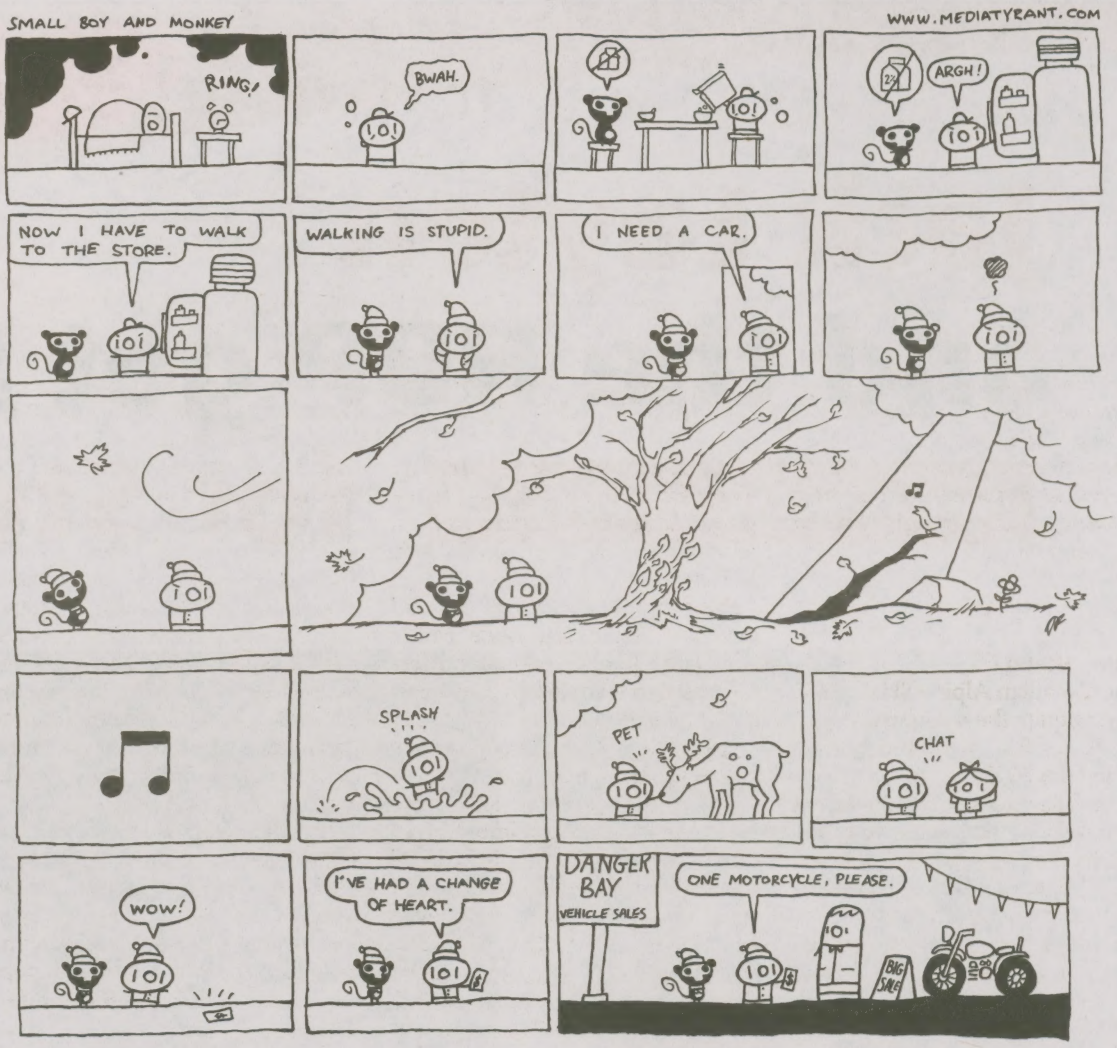
To the Slovakian girl: The Brazilian ceeder thinks that CF is gonna kick ass because you like it soft. Confused? Same here. —da VPICX

Either I'm the funky-monkey to your woman in the yellow hat or I'm just a lovesick moron wasting away in Boutrous-Boutrous land. Which is it? Should I stay or should I go?

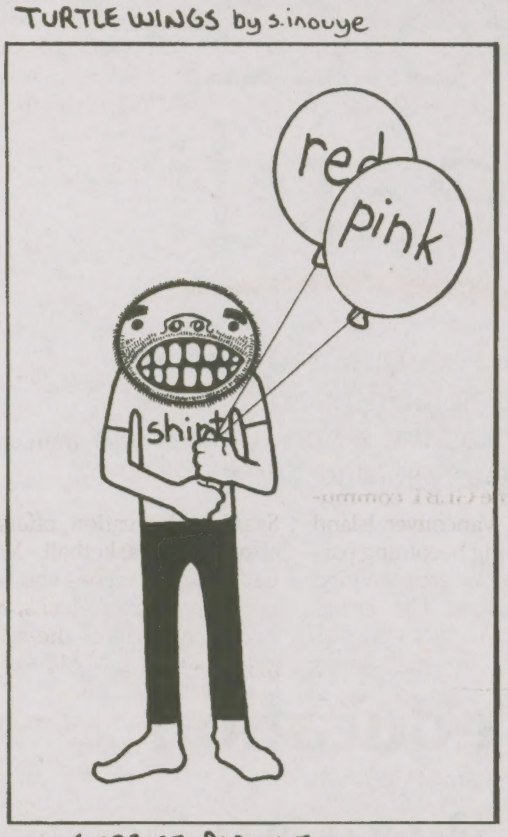
HILARIOUS JOKE TIME:
Q: What number bus does a pirate take to get home?
A: The 14.
As far as Fort street.
He actually lives just down the street from me.

The ghosts of Joseph Stalin, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, Leon Trotsky and a blonde walk into a bar. After some debate it's agreed by all that history is a series of tradegies.

SAM & FUZZY
©2004 BY SAM LOGAN.
HERE'S THE LAST THREE BOXES. THAT LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING FOR THIS WEEK.
THANKS, CANDICE.
SO, UH... HOW'S LIFE?
TIRING. I'VE JUST BEEN WORKING WAY TOO MANY LATE NIGHTS, YOU KNOW? IT'D BE NICE TO ACTUALLY GO OUT SOMEWHERE AND HAVE A GOOD TIME FOR A CHANGE.
SIGN HERE.
...RIGHT.
HEH... TO BE HONEST, IT'S BEEN SO LONG THAT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I WOULD GO OR WHO I COULD GO W--
HEREYOUGOALL SIGNEDSEEYOUNEXT WEEKBYE!
HOW THE HELL DID YOU MISS THAT RUNWAY, CAPTAIN? DID THE BIG FLASHING LIGHTS THROW YOU OFF?
I'M NOT AFRAID OF FALLING, I'M AFRAID OF LANDING.
NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM

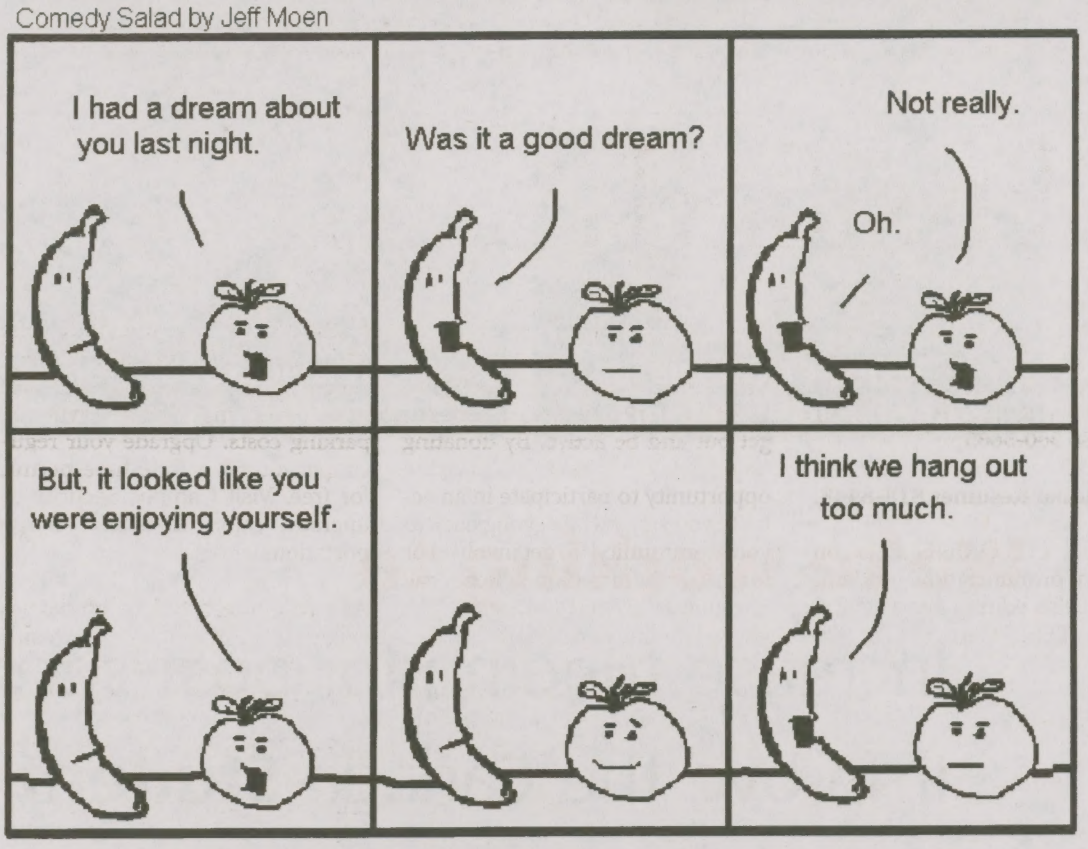


TURTLE WINGS by s.inouye

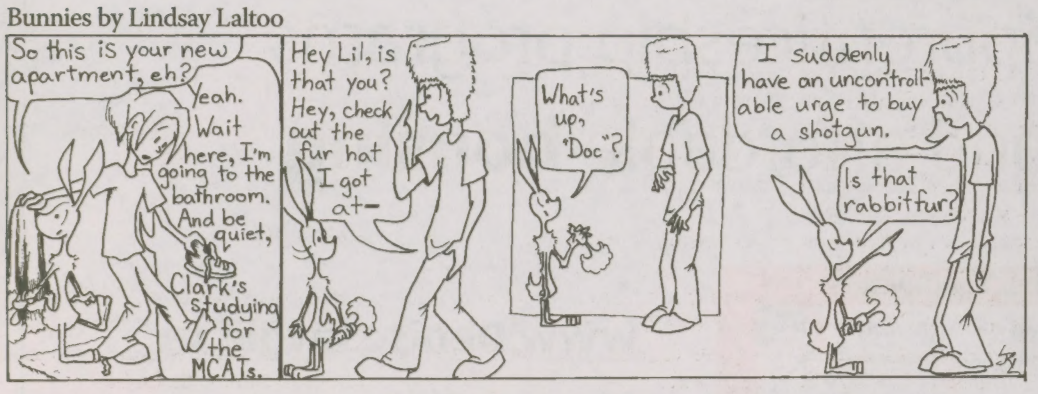


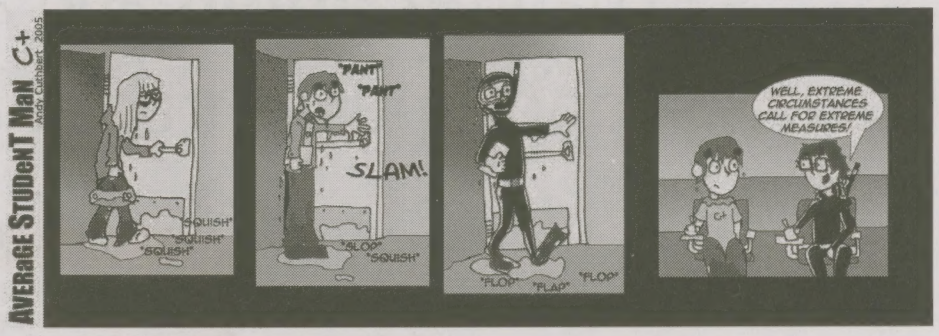
SUPRISE PARTY FOR THE LITERATE COLOUR BLIND

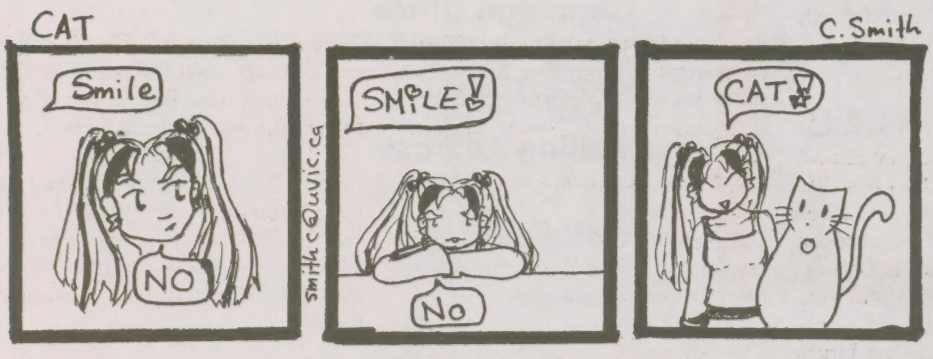
Comedy Salad by Jeff Moen


I had a dream about you last night.
Was it a good dream?
Not really.
Oh.
But, it looked like you were enjoying yourself.
I think we hang out too much.

Bunnies by Lindsay Laltoo


So this is your new apartment, eh?
Yeah. Wait here, I'm going to the bathroom. And be quiet, Clark's studying for the MCATs.
Hey Lil, is that you? Hey, check out the fur hat I got at-
What's up, "Doc"?
I suddenly have an uncontrollable urge to buy a shotgun.
Is that rabbit fur?





DISCE PATI

Potential Signs of a Gambling Problem:

- repeated unsuccessful attempts to quit
- spending bill money on gambling
- borrowing money from credit or others to gamble
- lying about wins and losses
- gambling to escape
- neglecting family/personal needs to gamble
- gambling being your only source of recreation

South Island Problem Gambling Services

For free, confidential and professional counselling services call (250) 213-2353.
Online: w w w . s i p g s . c a

NDP

Jack Layton and the NDP get results for Students*

Vote Monday, January 23!

Jennifer Burgis
Saanich-Gulf Islands

Denise Savoie
Victoria

Make your voice heard!

Canadian Federation of Students gives NDP platform an A grade!
Read the report at
www.voteeducation.ca

We're working to

- Increase funding for post-secondary **education**
- Improve the Canada **Student Loans** Program
- Expand **training** and apprenticeship programs
- Support public transit and affordable **housing**

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South Campaign Office
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Phone 704-4433

North Campaign Office
1207 Verdier Ave, Brentwood Bay
Phone 544-0124

www.DeniseSavoie.ca

Campaign Office
1620 Blanshard Street, Victoria
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Victoria V8R 6S4

*BUT ONLY IF YOU VOTE TO ELECT THEM!

Young people could have much more power and influence in Canada —if they voted. The power is yours for the taking. Many issues directly affect you. Tuition, transportation, affordable housing—there are many reasons for young people to cast their ballots! **Get out and Vote!**

NDP

Authorized by the Official Agents for Denise Savoie (Anne Russo) and Jennifer Burgis (William Graham)